Edm^d. J. Browne

THE DISPUTATION AT WINCHCOMB

NOV. 9. *MDCLIII.*

Salv. de Gub. l. 3.

Hoc enim ad crimina noſtra addimus, ut cum in omnibus rei ſimus, etiam bonos nos & Sanctos credamus; ac ſic nobis cumulentur iniquitatis offenſæ, etiam præſumptione juſtitiæ.

This alſo we adde unto our Crimes, that being guilty in all things, we think our ſelves *Saints*; and ſo by a vain opinion of our own righteouſneſs, encreaſe our iniquity.

The ſecond Edition enlarged with ſome Papers both before and after.

LONDON,

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THE
DISPUTATION
AT
WICHCOMB
NOV. 2. MDCCLII.

To the Reader.

BEing intimate with the Reſpondent, he eaſily communicated to me his papers, and I do as freely communicate them, Gentle Reader, to thee. This more publick and more large Edition, which was earneſtly deſired by ſome judicious men, it is hoped, will the more conduce to eſtabliſh the wav'ring minds of many good people, long diſtracted between the love they yet bear to the Reformed Religion of their Fathers, and the importunity of ſome new men, that under colour of further Reformation, would draw them from the Communion of the Church,

wherein they have been born and bred. It is true, Reformation is a fair colour: but how they can be call'd Reformed, that cry down all forms, I understand not. Their great Errour is the casting off with such contempt the lawful Guides, and the solemn service of the Church. And this they do of their own heads; For it is clear by the Order of the State *Nov.* 12. That the Ministers of the Church of *England*, and the good people adhering to them, ought to hold their Assemblies without disturbance. Well then, let the new men allow us equal liberty with themselves, remembring that we live in a free Commonwealth, and with-all, that our Doctrin consisteth a great deal better with the Civil Government, and honoureth the Magistrate more than theirs. This the Respondent also doubteth not to make further appear, together with the lawfulness of his Order and Ministry, if the Opponents do go on; but he hopeth they have done with him, and that

that he may return to a half-Printed work, upon which he bestows his spare time for the service of his Country, being a Translation out of *H. G.* of the *Right of War and Peace*. Reader, if thou beest one of the Separation, Return into the Bosom of thy Mother: if thou hast obtaind Grace, be faithful to the afflicted Church of *England*, continue in it to the End. Honour thy Profession, with a just, a sober, a godly conversation, and Farewel,

Thy Servant,
N. N.

December. 16.
1653.

The Preface.

THat the patient Reader may ſee the firſt Riſe of this Diſpute between *Mr.* Barkſdale of Sudeley, and *Mr.* Helme of Winchcombe, we muſt return into the memory of that time, when, not long after *Mr.* Helme his coming to that Church, he deſired the aid of his neighbouring Miniſters to preach in their turns a Lecture there. *Mr.* Barkſdale was of all men moſt ready (being the neareſt neighbour) to co-operate in a work tending to the benefit of that old Town; and I have heard him ſay, he ſhould be very unmindfull of the good example of his Father and eldeſt Brother, that are gon before, if he ſhould not in his way alſo ſtudy the good of that place of his Birth: and it is Poverty only, which like an armed man keeps him off from being an eminent Benefactor there. He had the more hope of this deſign, becauſe *Mr.* Helme was then lookt upon, not only by thoſe of the Pariſh that brought him thither, but by others too, even thoſe of a contrary

trary Intereſt, as a man diligent in his calling charitable to the poor, fair-condition'd in his behaviour, and moderate in point of religion. So that, as yet, the people of all ſorts heard him gladly. Mr. Barkſdale *was the more confirmed in his good opinion of his Moderation, having in familiar conference heard him much commend Mr.* Baxter *and his writings, a man indeed worthy of much commendation, eſpecially for his great love and ſtudy of the Churches Peace. God direct him and all others in the right way unto it. Well, the Lecture began, Mr.* Collier *of* Blockley (*one whom Mr.* Barkſdale *profeſſeth to honour for his Chriſtian temper, and the lovely Graces he hath obſerved in him,) being the firſt preacher; and, I remember, before he came, Mr.* Helme *entertaind the Hearers with expounding of the beginning of the* 122. *Pſalm,* I was glad when they ſaid unto me, Let us go into the houſe of the Lord. *Which ſudden exerciſe of his was ſo well approved by Mr.* Barkſdale, *that ſome dayes after (being a little given to the Muſes, becauſe of his daily converſation with ſome young Gentlemen-Scholars that live with him) he ſent Mr.* Helme *this following Anagram:*

HELMIUS

Helmius *ad populum vicinos dicere Fratres*
Vultne? Docere poteſt Ipſe ſuum melius,
Qui bona, *qui* bene *jam docuit*, meliora *docebit*
(*Ni fuerit populus non melior*) melius.

The next turn was aſſigned to Mr. Barkſdale, *who brought with him his friend Mr.* Towers, *and obtained leave for him to preach in his ſtead. One of his reaſons was, that he might ſhew Mr.* T. *to his friends in that place, and bring him into acquaintance with them. For if you know Mr.* B. *you know him to be a lover of all learned men, and very glad of any opportunity to ſerve them, either by himſelf, or by commending them to his more able friends. Mr.* T. *having learnedly ſupplyed the place, the chiefeſt of the Auditors after met at an Ordinary: where* Mr. Helme *ſignified his diſlike of ſo much Greek in a Sermon, and of the Preachers concluding his prayer with the* Lord's, *uſing this phraſe before it,* meekly kneeling upon our knees. *This laſt cenſure was nothing pleaſing to the company, who were all well affected to the Orders of the Church, and particularly a Miniſter of note in theſe parts,* Mr. M. *a little man, but full metall, fell ſharply upon* Mr. H. What, ſaith

ſaith he, reject the Lords prayer! I come no more into your company. *And I think, he was as good as his word.* Mr. T. *ſoberly ſaid as much as was fit for the time and place in defenſe of himſelf, to the content of the worthy Gentlemen and the reſt preſent.* Mr. H. *deſired, that any man of a different mind from him, would ſend him his thoughts in writing. And this was the occaſion of*

The firſt Letter of Mr. B. *to* Mr. H.
Junii 13. 51.

SIR, My reſpects remembred, I take leave to trouble you with this Paper, fearing leſt the Diſcourſe that paſt on Tueſday create ſome further unneceſſary diſpute. For preventing whereof, it will be good, I think, to mark what is the meaning of both parties. I conceive, 'tis this: You lay by the Lord's prayer, not as if you did not hold it to be a prayer lawfull, yea and commendable to be uſed in the prayers of the Church (ſo the Divines of the Aſſembly call it p. 18. 19. of the Directory;) And you would have people know, that we may pray very acceptably, though not in thoſe very words. And ſo, whereas it is conceived ſome have ſet up that to the diſadvantage of other prayers, or perhaps been a little ſuper-

ſtitious

ſtitious in honouring the former, you would bend the ſtick the other way, and by omitting for a time the uſe of the words, (though you keep the matter ſtill) teach people to regard the ſenſe as the onely thing. Wherein you are not, I think, oppoſed by the other ſide, who hold the prayer to have been uſed, by Chriſt's appointment, by the Diſciples, and fit to be uſed by us: (How can this be denied?) yet do not deny but the words may lawfully be omitted, and the ſenſe kept. And ſurely, it were a very great reſtraint of Devotion to confine it to any Forms whatſoever; my particular neceſſities being not particularly provided for by the forms of any other. Which neceſſities yet my heart may much deſire to open to God. And the like may be ſaid ſometime of a Congregation; So that, as every Chriſtian muſt labour to expreſs himſelf in private (beyond forms;) ſo every Miniſter muſt endeavour after the Ability to deliver to God the needs of his people, as the exigent ſhall require. And the exigent doth not always admit of preparation. To conclude, we gladly uſe the help our Lord, and his ſervants that have gon before us, have afforded us; We value their prayers, and uſe them; We do alſo after their pattern, and agreeable to them frame other prayers for our uſe; And yet after all prepared

prayer

prayer, the Chriſtian Soul muſt be allowed her ſudden ejaculations and extemporall aſcenſions to the Throne of Grace. What would you have more, &c.

The Anſwer given to this letter was civill, and ſo was the Reply; but neither is found. Only Mr. Barkſdale *remembreth, he ſent* Mr. Medes Diatribæ *with his next letter, and commended ſome of the diſcourſes to* Mr. Helme; *who anſwerd, that* Mr. Mede *lived in the time of the Prelates, and no wonder if he did ſerve that time; wherein ſurely he miſtook the* Genius *of that excellent ſcholar, whoſe learning was accompanyed with equall integrity, as the Reader may finde by his Epiſtles and life, ſince publiſhed.* Mr. Helme *his concluſion then was, that he would avoid controverſies, and preach Chriſt unto the people; And thus far all was fair between him and* Mr. Barkſdale, *and ſo it continued till* Mr. Helme *began more and more to alienate himſelf from all neighbouring Miniſters, except ſome few more ſuitable to his own mind, with whom alone he gave out he would ſupply the Lecture; And accordingly, when another came to preach, he denyed him, and took the pulpit himſelf, and there deliver'd ſuch things, which occaſioned*

Another

Another Letter of Mr. Barkſdale *to Mr.* Helme. *Maii* 26. 52.

Vincat Veritas! Vivat Charitas!

SIR, I much commend what you ſaid well of brotherly union and love, but cannot away with this new buſineſs of ſeparation. Fraternall Admonition alſo I much deſire ſhould be more practiſed, but ſuſpenſion before Admonition I cannot allow of. Clearly, my opinion is, notwithſtanding all that I have heard from you and your Brethren, that Miniſters are not to be condemn'd by you for adminiſtring the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper in their Congregations, though mixed. And for the proof hereof I do humbly tender unto you and yours theſe following Reaſons, which I ſhall be ready to enlarge and preſs more Logically, if it be deſired.

1. *Becauſe of Chriſt's precept,* Do this in remembrance of me. *This remembrance ſhould be frequent, and not delayed from year to year, on pretence of unpreparedneſs.*

2. *I argue from Chriſt's example. As he waſhed the feet of* Judas *among the reſt, ſo (if you will hear the Expoſitors antient and recent of beſt account) he admitted* Judas *to the Sacrament: though he well knew his unworthineſs,*

unworthineſs, and Miniſters do not know the unworthineſs of thoſe they admit, but hope the beſt, upon their profeſſion.

3. *From the Apoſtles words,* Ye ſhew forth the Lords death: *The Lords death is ſhewed forth to the Ear of the unworthy Hearer, why may it not to the Eye alſo of the Receiver, though in the Event he prove unworthy.*

4. *From thoſe words of the Apoſtle, where he ſaith,* The word is the ſavour of death to ſome. *Yet the danger of that muſt not hinder Miniſters from preatching in mixt Congregations: and therefore the danger of the unworthineſs of ſome Receivers muſt not hinder the adminiſtration of the Sacrament.*

5. *I allege the example of the Apoſtles, who upon profeſſion of Faith Baptized whole multitudes, and no doubt communicated with them; although it appeared after that they were not all right.*

6. *St.* Paul, *directing his Epiſtles to mixt Congregations, calls them all Saints, becauſe of their holy calling and profeſſion: and thoſe that are Saints in reputation may be admitted.*

7. *In the Church of* Corinth *were many diſorderly perſons (beſides the inceſtuous perſon) that were admitted. And* 1 Cor. 11.

Where

Where he blames their comming together for the worſe, he forbids them not to come together, nor doth he check the Miniſter, and forbid him to offer the Sacrament, but, ſaith he, Let a man examine himſelf, and ſo—— *Neither doth the unworthy eat damnation to the Miniſter, or any other, but only to himſelf. Nor is the Cup of bleſſing turned by the Miniſter into a Cup of poyſon: (God forbid ſuch language of yours,) but the unworthy Receiver of the cup of bleſſing loſes the bleſſing through his unworthineſs.*

8. *As the word becomes the ſavour of death to the unworthy, ſo are their prayers abomination; yet you both receive them to the Word, and joyn with them in Prayer; and you ſing Pſalms with them, namely the* 100. *Pſalms,* We are his flock, he doth us feed, &c.

9. *As the Word is a quickning Ordinance, ſo the Sacrament is a quickning Ordinance; For it is always accompanied with the Word. Nay without the Word 'tis no Sacrament. If the Word, without the Sacrament, may quicken thoſe that were dead, much more may the Word with the Sacrament. Chriſt is the Bread of life, both to give life, and to maintain life.*

10. *You do, I ſuppoſe, admit Children of all Chriſtian parents, (upon their deſire and profeſſion), to the one Sacrament; why do you not*

admit

admit the parents themſelves likewiſe to the other?

11. *You have no power to receive accuſations and proofs of Witneſſes, without which you cannot give ſentence; and will you condemn and ſuſpend, or excommunicate, before you have tryed, or upon hear-ſay?* Quis erit innocens?

12. *You ſay you make a ſeparation in the Church, not from the Church; as if it were lawfull to make a ſeparation in the Church. A ſeparation in the Church is a rent of the Church, is offenſive, and ſaddens the heart of many pious, diſcreet, and charitable perſons, that however they like you otherwiſe, cannot joyn with you in your by-way.*

13. *We muſt not deny the worthy, and keep from them the means and pledges of grace, becauſe of the unworthineſs of ſome.*

14. *As we offer the Covenant to all, ſo muſt we offer the ſeal to all, that do outwardly ſubmit to the Covenant.*

Sir, I will add no more at preſent: theſe Arguments thus briefly ſet down, you may conſider of impartially. I have left a margin for your Annotations, and deſire you to note what you allow, and what you diſlike, and ſo return my paper; that I may endeavour to ſatisfy you, ſo far as it becomes one that is a friend to you, and to the people among whom

you

you are Miniſter. I muſt not end, till I have (as I think it my duty) admoniſht you to review the Meditations you deliverd yeſterday, and in your ſecond thoughts judge, whether it be right and charitable to preach,

1. *That the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church were heretofore impoſed as neceſſary, or equall to Gods Law. See to the contrary in the preface to the Liturgy*, of Ceremonies, why ſome are retained.

2. *That a Church of Saints might fifteen years ago beſt be gathered out of excommunicate perſons.*

3. *That God will add to your ſeparating Church ſuch as ſhall be ſaved*; [*as if ſalvation were not to be had elſwhere.*]

4. *That Liturgy hath done much hurt among the people.* [*Remember the fallacy of* non cauſa pro cauſa.]

5. *That the Miniſters that joyn not with you, harden people in their ſins, and favour their wickedneſs.*

6. *That the Apoſtle ſpeaking of withdrawing from diſorderly walkers, forbids to eat the Sacrament with them, though they were not excommunicate.* [*They might eat familiarly with Infidels not with the brother offending,* 1 *Cor.* 5.] Herein I cannot ſubſcribe to your doctrin, though in any office of love I am your ſervant.

YOU were a little troubled, me thought, with that Text, 1 *Cor.* 5. concerning not eating with the offending Brother; and you held it lawfull to eat familiarly, (or at the common Table) with him, but not at the Holy Table. Your reaſon: becauſe it was lawfull ſo to eat with Infidels. Sir, you are twice miſtaken; for it was clearly permitted to keep company and eat with Infidels, though not with the brother. Read the place. And the Apoſtle doth not ſpeak of eating the Sacrament, but common bread. A Chriſtian muſt be ſo far from familiar converſe with ſuch a brother, that he muſt not ſo much as eat with him;——*No, not to eat.* He muſt avoid his familiar company, leſt he partake in his ſin, whom he knows to be covetous, a railer, a drunkard, &c. But, if they both chance to meet at the Lords Table (the offender being not under publick cenſure of Authority) there he may accompany him in that good Action, and not be polluted by him; for the Action is good, and the inward unworthineſs is his own guilt, and hurts not another. The end of this Averſation from the offending brother is for his good, for his converſion; *ut intro-*, 2 *Th.* 3. 14. That he may be aſhamed. The

end

end of my Admonition to you, is that you may not be ashamed, but in the most handsome way you can, amend your error, and no longer rail † about the Holy Table, and fright the people from it.

† *Humfryes of Free Admiss. p. 78. My Brethren, there are some touches of the Law and Superstition on you. You know what a sacred thing was made of the Communion-Table, when the Rayl was about it. Now I pray, think how you refine and spiritualize your old superstition, by putting a spiritual rail about the Sacrament, when you debar poor sinners from coming thither. Let us take heed, there will be something of the Pharisee in these spiritual-proud hearts of men; there will be setting a rayl still about the Communion-Table.*

Mr. *Barksdale* expected Mr. *Helme* should now shew himself an example of meekness in accepting brotherly Admonition, which he had commended so much in his Sermon, but found it otherwise; for, neither was the paper returned according to his request, nor any Answer at all, but the letter was shewed to his party, and from one of them Mr. *Barksdale* received this loving Advice following:

A Letter of *Mr. Tr.* to *Mr. B.*

Junii 1. 52.

GOod Sir, The good respect I ever bore to your industry, learning, peaceableness

and integrity, makes me, having ſeen a letter of yours, ſavouring of ſome ſharpneſs, to be bold to give you advice worth gold. 1. *That you would write no more ſuch letters: you know not what uſe may be made of it. If you had the letter again, I think you would never ſend it.* 2. *That you will not think your ſelf ingaged in conſcience to contend againſt any particular form or diſciplin tolerated by the Magiſtrate, eſpecially ſeeing I and the reſt do by no means judge any man to be ſcandalous, becauſe he is not of our form, but deſire all brotherly love and fellowſhip with you and them. Good Sir, conſider of this mine advice, and if you cannot take it well, yet do not take it ill, becauſe tis the advice of your aſſured loving friend.*

The Anſwer returned Junii 5.

WOrthy Sir, Although my Letter, written (as I conceive) on a very juſt occaſion, and in a friendly manner to Mr. *Helm*, be not yet vouchſafed any anſwer, yet have I this fruit of it, that you, upon ſight thereof, have been pleaſed thus far to ſhew your love to the Writer, as to give me your Advice: Advice led in by ſo favourable an elogy of your undeſerving friend, that were the Admonition ſharper than any point of my let-

ter, yet ſhould I think my ſelf bound to take it well. *Monere & Moneri*: you know the reſt. I do not only not take it ill, but heartily thank you for it, and will obey it, preferring your judgment herein before mine own. For truly when I conſult with my ſelf (give me an ingenuous liberty to ſpeak a little boldly with you) I can ſee no cauſe but I may write more ſuch letters. That letter hath two parts: one defenſive of many Miniſters, for their life and learning, well approved; the other admonitory, deſiring a reviſall of ſome points deliverd by that Preacher my friend. In the Defenſe I have certainly ſaid ſomewhat that cannot be refuted by ſilence; nor, as I think, by words: And in my Admonition, I have touched that which ought to be retracted, or at leaſt excuſed. Why am I not anſwered by letter; if I am wrong, to be reduced or informed; if I am right, to be confirmed. To give no Anſwer, in ſuch a caſe, I confeſs I cannot reconcile with the Rules of humanity which I have learned, and which I did believe my friend would not tranſgreſs. The true uſe of a letter is thereby to underſtand the writers mind, and ſo to give him anſwer: what other uſe may be made of it (as you ſay) truly I know not; but I eſteem it not worthy to be ſeen by Superiours, againſt whoſe command,

command, I am ſo far from contending, that I will not publickly condemn what they publickly commend. But (to ſpeak to your ſecond) it hath been eſteemed heretofore very conſcientious to contend againſt ſome things tolerated by the Magiſtrate; So did many zealous Preachers contend againſt ſports on the Lords day tolerated once, and ſo do ſome ſtill contend againſt Uſury tolerated yet. And for Forms and Diſcipline, the Old way, you know, was preached down, when the Laws and Magiſtrates did endeavour to uphold it. Theſe preachers I cannot defend, but would ſay ſomething for them, if it had been a Form tolerated only, and not eſtabliſht. For we look upon a Form tolerated as a thing not approved by the State, but winked at for a time, and diſpenſt with to content a party or ſide. A Form tolerated is at moſt but for triall: and ſo long as it is put to the triall, it may be contended againſt, not by force, but by argument and diſſwaſion. Nor is this to oppoſe the State, or croſs their Intention; for til they declare their Mind, it is preſumption in a private man to intrude into their Counſells. And therefore while things are under Conſultation (as now) it cannot be juſtly called oppoſition of the Magiſtrate, if one diſpute (in a familiar letter)

againſt

againſt that which they tolerate. Nay, the liberty of familiar letters, you know, is of greater extent. For my part, there is none gives more to the Magiſtrate in matters of Religion, than I do; none is more ready to ſubmit to laws in all things not cleerly contrary to the Higheſt Law. And for the preſent Toleration, although I think I may ſafely take the liberty (is not this alſo a part of the Toleration?) to diſcourſe of ſuch matters either by letter or otherwiſe; yet I will obey your Advice, as I ſaid: and I cannot chuſe but commend your Moderation in not judging any man ſcandalous for not being of your Form. Though out of Form, I am really, Sir, your Servant in Chriſt.

Another to the ſame, not long after.

GOod Sir, Having not the leaſure at preſent to attend you at *Stow*, I ſend my letter to to ſalute you and your good company. I have conſidered upon your Argument yeſterday (taking advantage from the rubric in our Service-Book) That Catechizing and Confirmation muſt go before the Sacrament of of the Lords Supper: Therefore your New Covenant. The Antecedent is in the rubric after the Form of Confirmation. And I can-

no

not defend the former neglect of Confirmation in the Bishop, nor any present neglect of Catechizing by any Minister. But seeing there is now none of that Confirmation to be had (a great want in the Church I think) what if the Minister do his part in instructing people in the Catechism, and the people not only make Confession of Faith, but profess Repentance, Charity, Obedience; nor hath the Minister any assurance, no nor just ground of suspicion that they are not sincere, shall he not admit them to the Lords Table? I would not presume to condemn all the pious and learned Ministers of the Church of *England*, that have administred the Sacrament upon such tearms. When we cannot have all done we would, we must be content with what can be done, as the case standeth. Well, Confirmation I grant is commanded as convenient and profitable, not so necessary, but that, in case it be wanting, the Sacrament may be administred. Now, to the sequel: How your Covenant can serve in place of Confirmation, I do not yet understand. It consisteth only of the Confession, resolution and promise of the Covenanters: whereas Confirmation, or laying on of hands, is an act of the Bishop to certify the person confirmed, of Gods favour and gracious goodness towards him:

and

and it is joyned with prayer and benediction; wherwith the party is thought to be ſtrengthned and encreas'd in grace. Your Covenant, I grant, is ſomewhat like the Anſwer in our Catechiſm, where the Catechized undertaketh the Baptiſmall vow made in his name, and promiſeth by Gods help to perform it. And ſurely that is done by all that come with us to the Lords Table. And approaching to it in the quality of ſuch as repent them truly of all their ſins, are in charity with their neighbours, and intend to lead a new life; they do renew their Covenant, and in taking the Sacrament have the ſeal thereof: as tis very requiſite, nor do I yet ſee how Miniſters can refuſe to give it.

Sir, ſhall I be bold in ſecret to ask you, what great deliverance is the ground of your Covenant, I doubt of it, becauſe upon the late deliverance from the *Scotiſh* Invaſion, all hopes were cut off of reforming this Church according to the pattern of *Scotland*, which, unleſs I am deceived, was one end of the *Scotiſh* Covenant receiv'd in *England*. I deny not great Deliverances, but I take advantage from the *Scots* Covenant, and ſay, that the Friends thereof, inſtead of Deliverance, have had a totall overthrow. Give me a little light in this, and reconcile the Covenants

nants in the religious part of them: for I meddle not with temporals.

That which you ſaid (as I take it) of peoples having excommunicated themſelves, by a defection from the Goſpel in life and manners, which is you ſay in effect all one as to fall from the Faith, muſt be explaned by you. For Apoſtacy from the Faith and profeſſion of Chriſt cuts a member off from the Church, and Corruption in manners doth but make a diſeaſed member, and ſuch a one muſt be cured gently.

I remember a Covenant ſomewhere in Mr. *Rogers* his 7. Treatiſes, a Book Dedicated to King *James*: I would gladly know, whether ſuch a one as that might not ſerve your turn,

Your Servant,

C. B.

Reader, *I am tempted by the mention of the Covenant in the former Letter, here to inſert what ſeems to have been written about this time.*

Queries

Queries of a Chriſtian Brother, which he deſires may be anſwered before he enter into the Covenant held forth at *Winchcomb*.

1. *WHether it be lawful for any number of people thus to combine, without direction of Authority, which is wont to be jealous of Meetings, leſt under pretence of piety ſomewhat elſe be intended.*

2. *Whether all that is moral in this Covenant be not conteined in the Prayer of all Communicants the old way, to live a godly, righteous and ſober life, and in the profeſſion to repent of former ſins, and lead a new life.*

3. *Whether all that are Catechized the old way, do not take on them as good a Covenant, when they anſwer,* Yes verily, and by Gods help ſo I will, *&c.*

4. *What is meant by the* corrupt and formal way of worſhip, *whereof they are* aſhamed. *If the worſhip eſtabliſhed in the Church of* England, *is it not a falſe and ſcandalous expreſſion?*

5. *What is meant by* all other Godly diſciplin: *if the uſe of the Keys; where have theſe Covenanters any Commiſſion?*

6. *Whether they can be ſaid* to keep the Unity

Unity of the Spirit in the bond of Peace, *that innovate in the Church, and divide without cauſe?*

Queries upon the Covenant at *Winchcomb* 1652.

1. *WHether it were not much better and more needful for the People to repent their departing from the Vow of Baptiſm, and from the Orders, and Miniſtry of that Church wherein they were Baptized, than to charge the* Worſhip *thereof as* corrupt, *when the corruption is only in themſelves?*

2. *Whether any People can have* enjoyment of all Gods holy Ordinances, *that have not any Miniſter among them Ordained after the Apoſtolical manner?*

3. *Whether Eccleſiaſtical Power be grounded in the* People, *and not derived from Chriſt and his Apoſtles by a ſucceſſion of Churchmen?*

4. *Whether it be not Schiſm to caſt off obedience to the antient* Apoſtolical *Government of the Church? And to be of theſe new Congregations, to communicate in Schiſm?*

5. *Whether Schiſm be not a great crime? when as every Chriſtian is bound upon his*

Salvation

Salvation to maintain the Unity of the Church.

6. *Whether any example or pattern of a Congregation, without* dependence *upon ſome higher Eccleſiaſtical power, can be found in any Age till this laſt?*

7. *Whether* mutual Admonition *and all that is good in this Covenant may not be practiſed keeping our dependence ſtill on the* lawful *Guides of the Church?*

8. *Whether they can be ſaid* to walk humbly and inoffenſively toward All, *that take upon them to condemn the whole Church as corrupt, and renounce Communion with all that joyn not in this Covenant?*

Another Letter to Maſter H. *about the ſame time.*

SIR,

ALthough I have promiſed to write no more Letters, ſuch as the former, wherein, it ſeems, you have found ſome diſlike that you will not tell me of; nor will I oppoſe your new Church-State any further than in modeſty and charity I may: yet having miſſed of your Company to day, and having underſtood by Mr. *Tr.* that you have had a report brought you concerning your

your Orders and Me, I desire you not to believe it, before you hear me; and the like I desire concerning any Report you hear of my Preaching. One thing more: Whereas I am informed that the last Lords Day you were much in confuting my Interpretation of 1 *Cor.* 5.11. and brought consent of Interpreters, that, [*no, not to eat*] is not, as I understand it, spoken of common eating, I have here transcribed *Diotat's* note. *No, not to eat* [*Namely in common course of life: shun all manner of voluntary sweet and friendly converſation with him.* The same shunning of Infidels was not required: and therefore you must acknowledge your proof weak, *They might eat with Infidels, Therefore much more with Christians.* I will trouble you with his note upon *v.*4. *When ye are*] *He speaks to the Pastors and Conductors of the Church. The meaning is, Being gathered together in Ecclesiastical judgement, having this my Declaration*; &c. Whereby you plainly see, your foundation for an Independent Congregation taken away. Pray Sir, weigh this, and if you please, the former Letter, with the same quietness of mind, wherewith I wrote it, and return me two lines of Answer, that I may know my friendly Office is not lost: and take you the same liberty

liberty of correcting me, who am your Chriſtian Friend.

No Anſwer was returned to the former Letters, and ſo there was a Ceſſation till the next year. But in the mean time this following Paper came to my hands, ſuppoſed to be written by Mr. *B.* out of a deſire to have ſomewhat done in the way of Reformation by the neighbouring Miniſters to take away ſomewhat from the grievous Criminations Mr. *H.* and ſuch others uſually caſt upon them, as hinderers of piety, and hardeners of the people in their Sins. This Paper, I believe the pious Reader will take kindly from me, intitled

A Reformed Congregation.

1. *WE do in thankfulneſs acknowledge the great Mercy of God, in not giving us up utterly to confuſion and deſolation, but preſerving us under* any *Government, wherein Law and Juſtice is ſo adminiſtred, that we may (if we be not wanting to our ſelves) lead a* quiet *and a* godly *life; And we content our ſelves with the preſent State, not ſeditiouſly ſeeking after changes.*

2. *We do much honour the Church of* England, *wherein we have been Baptized and bred; and, notwithſtanding any ſmall faults*

faults in the Conſtitution and Diſciplin, or great faults in the late Officers and Governours thereof, we inſiſt upon the ſame Grounds, and adhere to the ſame Church, as it was in Queen Elizabeths *time defended againſt the Roman by* Jewels Apology, *and againſt the Innovators by Hookers* Eccleſiaſtical Politie.

3. *Yet do we not think all the forms and rites thereof ſo neceſſary, but that we may (as diſcretion ſhall require) omit them upon occaſion, and in their ſtead (without coutempt of the former) uſe ſome that are different and ſerve well for order and decency in the ſervice of God.*

4. *To reſt in any forms and rites whatſoever, and to ſerve God only externally, we hold a very imperfect and unacceptable ſerving of God, who reqnireth chiefly the heart. But, as God hath* made *both our Bodies and Souls, and Chriſt hath* redeemed *Both; ſo do we deſire to glorifie Him with Both. And, as we would expreſs the* power *of Godlineſs in our lives, ſo would we alſo preſerve a decent* form *of it (ſuch as is for edification) in our Aſſemblies.*

5. *The* Litury *of the Church of* England *(for the ſubſtance and main of it) we heartily embrace; but in the uſe thereof ſhall not retain any thing offenſive and oppoſite to the*

preſent

preſent Government: but in all our Religious exerciſes ſhall be as careful to ſhew our due ſubmiſſion to the Magiſtrate (which all good Chriſtians have ever done) as our reverence to the Antient Church.

6. That Sum of Religion contained in the old Catechiſm, we do eſpecially commend for the education of Children: And we ſhall then think our ſelves good proficients in Chriſtianity, when, with the profeſſion of the neceſſary Articles of Faith, and due participation of the Sacraments, and frequency of the Word and Prayer, we joyn the careful daily practice of Gods moral Law, and of thoſe excellent Evangelical precepts of our only Lord and Saviour Jeſus Chriſt.

7. Difference of opinions in leſſer points and matters ſhall not make a breach in our Charity and Communion with one another: Nor ſhall we for any ſuch difference be alienated ſo much or eſtranged from any Chriſtians in the whole world, but that we ſhall be glad to communicate and cloſe with them in all that is good and lawful.

8. That we may (for the preſent) ſupply the want of publick Church-Government, as well as we can, we reſolve to put into more diligent practice that command of Chriſt concerning fraternal Admonition; First, by

one in private, then by two or three, and lastly by the Church or Congregation, or those that represent it: And whosoever shall obstinately stand out against the last Admonition, with such a one we will have nothing to do, but avoid him so far as the Law of Nature and this Nation will permit.

9. *This our Congregation shall be guided by one or more* lawful Ministers, *assisted with such Officers as our Necessities shall require, and the Church by common consent shall elect. And, as we cannot like of those that factiously draw away people after them, that belong to other Assemblies; so shall we be careful not to offend in the like manner by trespassing upon any lawful Minister, or distracting, and disturbing any other Congregation whatsoever.*

10. *Our great Business shall be (by Gods grace) to live* soberly, righteously and godly, *That being the end of the Gospel: and in all external and indifferent matters we shall conform our selves to the Law of the Land, and to such Rules of Civility and good order, as we can learn by our selves, or by the examples and directions of the most prudent.*

11. *And lastly, we shall be in preparation of mind to conform unto any Church-Government, which the Supreme Power shall settle*

over

over us according to the word of God: And (in case none be setled) we shall endeavour to join with other neighbouring Congregations, and receive what influence we can from some Overseer of the Primitive and Apostolical temper.

THe last Spring Master B. encreased his diligence, and doubled his pains at Sudeley, considering how many of his friends and acquaintance at Winchcomb, and of his most Honourable Patron's Tenants, were become almost like Sheep without a Shepheard; some frequenting that Parish-Church indeed, but bringing home their ears tingling with the strange doctrins, and uncharitable censures and reproaches of the Preacher; others absenting themselves from the Church, and contented with their private reading and devotions at home; others looking about where they might find a more comfortable Ministry. Upon this consideration Mr. B. not consulting with flesh and bloud, not fearing the threats of those violent men, not seeking any profit to himself, but meerly the glory of God and the good of Souls, opposes his endeavours against the separation, shews the danger of falling off from a true Reformed Church, exhorteth to Communion with Pastors of a

regular Ordination, reproveth the licenſe of the times, wherein ſo many without lawfull call, without commiſſion, venture upon holy Miniſteries. The people hereby erected, and (as I have credibly been informed) being publickly told by Mr. Helme, *that if they could not comply with his way, they ſhould not diſſemblingly come to hear him, but provide otherwiſe for themſelves, they in great numbers frequent Prayers, Sermons and Sacraments at* Sudeley. *This pierced Mr.* Helme, *and although he would not anſwer what Mr.* Barkſdale *had written to him, he inveighs againſt him in his Pulpit, condemnes his Preaching, and his Sacramenting, and this in no milder language than of murdering Chriſt and the ſouls of men: This was the occaſion of*

Another Letter to Mr. Helme,
Maii 23. 53.

MR. Helme,

I have this long time much deſired ſome friendly conference with you, but not yet finding the opportunity, I take the liberty to ſend you this Letter after my former letters which I ſuppoſe you received, though you returned no anſwer. I would not divert you from your better thoughts by troubling

you

you to give any long anſwer, a few lines ſhall be ſufficient to me. Only be pleaſed to let me know the reaſons of that vehemence you have often uſed in condemning your neighbours, Miniſter, and people, particularly for the Holy Sacrament adminiſtred among them. Muſt we forbear that part of our Miniſtry, becauſe ſome are unworthy receivers? Then it ſeems we may not preach for fear our Sermons may prove the ſavour of death to ſome. The accidentall evill following by reaſon of ſome (not known) defect in the recipient is no diſcharge to the Miniſter, nor need it deter him from doing his part. But we muſt not admit the unworthy. Nor do we admit any but upon an apparent worthineſs, that is, upon profeſſion of Faith, and repentance, and newneſs of life. But they make not good their promiſes: The more are they to blame, that do not. Let not their falſneſs be laid upon the Miniſter; for he's not guilty of it, no more than a Magiſtrate that gives an oath to Jurors which they through their own negligence do not performe; or than a Miniſter; that offers an Engagement or Covenant to people, when yet ſome of them are found afterwards to have entred into it not ſincerely. Sir, I cannot ſee, how you can ſecure your ſelf at any time, ſo that your Miniſtrie

niſtrie may not be employed on thoſe wh
may (poſſibly) turne it to their hurt. Tho
bloody words that are reported to have falle
from you in publick, concerning people in He
crying out upon Miniſters for damning thei
by giving them the Holy Myſteries, canno
be excuſed; Nor are you to cenſure any fo
unworthy receiving unleſs you know the
to be ſuch; and if you do know them to b
ſuch, I think you are rather to admoniſh
them in privat, and pray for them, than pub
likly to rage againſt them. I will not troub
you with more of this. Yet one word mor
I muſt take leave to add, and ask of you, Wh
you complained to the Juſtices at *Winch-
comb* Seſſions laſt that you had malignan
Neighbours. Sir, you are not to endange
any man's name or eſtate by ſuch a charact
that is a profeſſor of that Religion whic
Chriſt hath taught, that ſubmits to the High-
er powers, that deſires to live peaceably wit
all men. Such a one particularly doth he pro-
feſs himſelf to be in truth, who alſo is,

Your friend to ſerve you
C. B.

May, 23. 53.

A

A Reply preſently upon receipt of Anſwer to the letter of May 23. Jun. 8. 53.

SIR,

To ſhew my reſpect unto you, and the deſire I have you ſhould have any fair ſatisfaction concerning my doings, I ſhall give ſome touches upon the ſeverall parts of your letter, paſſing by the ill language in it (proceeding not from your reaſon, but paſſion) and being very well aſſured, that many pious and learned men (equall to the beſt of your Approvers) doe concurre againſt you in the charge of uncharitableneſs, and do not think fit to conform themſelves to your example.

Ad. 1. The wieked men cannot be ſaid to be hardened in their wicked wayes by us that promiſe them life onely upon Gods terms, if they repent and believe the Goſpell; Nor have they that are convinced of ſin by you at *Winchcomb* any other ſalve from me at *Sudely* to cure them, but the promiſes of the Goſpell upon their Converſion. Yet do not I confeſs that every thing you call ſin, is ſo; How many good things have you called evill? That of *Ursin* is not pertinent unto me, for none are acquitted *Verbo viſibili*, that are not alſo *Verbo audibili*. Both wayes are they acquitted that are truly that which they profeſs.

2. This

2. This Ordinance is no otherwiſe prophaned than others are, by unworthy partakers. Prayers of wicked men are abomination, why do you let them prophane your prayers at *Winchcomb*? As to *Ezec.* 44. And other places elſewhere, I muſt confeſs you have an unhappy skill in making the Scriptures look kindly upon your ſelves, and with an ill aſpect on ſuch as are not of you. Before that Text will ſerve your turn, you muſt prove our people are the uncircumciſed in heart, and gone aſtray after Idols?

3. Tis no guilt at all to ſee men making a ſolemn memorial of Chriſts death, and praiſing him, & promiſing to obey him better than they have done. *Hag.* 2. 3. Is ſure miſtaken by you, 1 *Cor* 5. 6. juſtly condemns the countenancers of the Inceſtuous perſon, and is not pertinent to them that make an open deteſtation of all ſin. 1 *Cor.* 5. 11. requires that Chriſtians which are fornicators, drunkards, &c. be avoided and not eaten with, which is clearly ſpoken and interpreted by all the learned interpreters (I believe) of abſtaining from familiar converſe. Yet no man denyes but ſuch are to be excluded alſo from the Holy Table. But this muſt be done judicially. There is not wanting *diligentia debita* in the Miniſter when he gives inſtruction and admonition,

monition, and admitts none whom he knows or is informed of to be in that black rowl. The Diſcipline Authoritative in the places cited, *Matth.* 18. and 1 *Cor.* 5. is conceived to belong to other *Overſeers* † than you or I. Your compariſons prove nothing. Nor is the caſe alike. We give that which is good to thoſe whom we in charity ſuppoſe to be well affected. † *See the Author of binding and looſing.*

4. If there had been only Prayers and not wars for Reformation, many think it had been the more Chriſtian way. But Sir, was not the Reformation fought for a long time, Presbyterian? That's not yours; Nor is yours eſtabliſhed. I perſwade all to light and purity.

5. I aſſiſt the true Reformation, in preaching piety and charity, and admitting ſuch to Communion who vow holy vowes. And I think they are of the beſt ſort. My cure at *Hawl.* and *Sudely* is not comparable to your large Dioceſe. And for gatherirg a Church, truly I am ready to ſerve all my Chriſtian friends that (upon the liberty granted under this Government) will make uſe of my Miniſtry.

6. For Matter and Form, our congregation (I truſt in Gods mercy) ſhall not be aſhamed to look upon yours: and we endea-

vour

vour to be above you in our humility (at leaſt) and charity. And if you will inform againſt any member, and prove the accuſation, he ſhall feel our Diſcipline. But I perceive by what you add, you are miſinformed, and ſo may I be. God ſend us more of the Goſpell-Spirit.

June 8. *C. B.*

An Addition.

TO your Rule, *where no excommunion, no communion*, I anſwer, that the power of Excommunion is in the Governours of the Church, (and I conceive) belongs not unto particular Congregations. For before judgement given, there muſt be a tryall by examination of witneſſes, &c. Do you keep ſuch a court in your Church? pray ſhew me the Commiſſion for it. Now, if the Government of the Church be hindred or excluded, the blame muſt light upon the Enemyes thereof; and particular Congregations muſt enjoy the ordinances as well as they can. Beſides, by your Rule, all the Congregations of *England* in former times had no right to Communion, becauſe they owned no power of Excommunion: only they could preſent faults, and ſo muſt leave them to the cognizance of their ſuperiors.

ſuperiors. As for 1 *Cor.* 5. You muſt not look upon *Corinth* as a ſingle Congregation, but as an Epiſcopall See, according to ſome: according to others, as governed by a Conſiſtory of Presbyters. See the Expoſitors.

Calvin. in 1 Cor. 5.

4. *Congregatis vobis*] *Erat in veteri Eccleſia ordinatum presbyterium: hoc eſt, Collegium Seniorum, cujus, omnium conſenſu, prima erat cognitio: inde res ad populum, ſed jam præjudicata, deferebatur.*

11. *Cum tali nec cibum quidem ſumatis*] *Per cibi communicationem intelligitur vel contubernium, vel interior convictus: nihil enim prohibet, quo minus, ſi in diverſorium ingreſſus, videam excommunicatum quempiam aſſidere, ſimul cum eo prandeam: neq; enim ejus excludendi mihi eſt poteſtas.*

C. 11. 28. *Probet autem ſeipſum homo*] *Neq; vero perfecta aut fides aut pœnitentia requiritur; ſicuti quidam perfectionem quæ nuſquam inveniri poteſt, nimium urgendo, univerſos mortales in perpetuum à cœna arcent.*—*--Fides etiam inchoata ex indignis facit dignos.*

29. *Qui ederit indignè*] *--offerri illis corpus, licet ejus participatione ſua eos indignitas privet.*

24. *Cœtera*

34. *Catera quùm vero disponam*] *De externo decore loquitur, quod ut in libertate Ecclesiâ positum est, ita pro temporum, locorum, hominum conditione constitui debet.*

C. 13. 7. *Charitas omnia fert, omnia credit*] *Simplicitatem & humanitatem in judicando hic requirit, & asserit esse perpetuas Charitatis comites. Ita fiet, ut homo Christianus falli sua benignitate ac facilitate satius esse ducat, quam* siniſtra ſuſpicione fratrem gravare.

Idem in Ep. ad Philip C. 2. v. 3. Nihil per contentionem] *Excitatur contentio dum suam quisque sententiam pertinaciter vult tueri.* —*Inanis autem gloria animos titillat, ut unicuique blandiantur sua inventa. Sed per humilitatem.*] *Ex stultâ nostri admiratione nascitur fratrum contemptus.*

Si quid noviſti rectius —

Reader, *I shall here take leave to impart unto thee another paper written, as I think, about this time, when Mr.* B. *grieved at the virulence of the Adversary, and studying to deprive him of all occasion of evil-speaking, set down and presented to some worthy friends, this Model for*

The

1. THe Rector is a Presbyter of the Church of *England*, and hath some discreet men of the Congregation for his Assistants to advise with, and to use as occasion shall require.

2. On the Lords day he Preacheth once or twice, and also the Church-Catechism is repeated at certain times by the younger sort.

3. On Saturday in the Afternoon (or at another convenient time) he explaneth some part of the Catechism, and taketh the names of such as desire to be admitted to the Communion, and giveth particular aid, as necessity shall appear.

4. Every month is administred the Communion to as many of those that have given their Names to the Minister as have received Tokens from him. Which Tokens they receive on the Eve of the Communion Day.

5. A prime duty of the Assistants is to have an Eye to the Conversation of the rest, and to admonish them that are faulty, and to acquaint the Minister therewith, if need be, that scandals may be avoided.

6. The persons that are put off till the next

next Communion day take it not ill, but uſe the time allowed them, for their better preparation, knowing that this buſineſs is of the greateſt moment.

7. This Congregation beareth charitable affections toward all other Congregations whatſoever, and prayeth for the union of all Chriſtians, and the recovery of all holy Diſciplin.

I omit ſome other letters of *Mr.* B. to *Mr.* H. becauſe they contein little but a repetition of what is ſaid in the former: and for *Mr.* H. his Anſwers, thoſe I have ſeen have ſo little of Charity or Civility in them (to ſpeak moſt gently) that I conceive it will be no wrong to the Reader, or to him, to let them dye; nor will Himſelf, I believe, think fit to bring them into the light. Next then ſhall follow

A Letter of Mr. B. *to Col.* A. *Jun.* 53.

NOble Sir,

You are a Gentleman and a Scholar, and in both names I have reaſon to expect courteſy from you in a fair peruſall of the encloſed, that my cauſe may not be made worſe than it is by miſapprehenſion. The ſum of the letter to which here is a Reply, is but this;

this; To administer the Sacrament to the wicked, as such, is many wayes unlawfull; You administer the Sacrament to the wicked, as such; Therefore, &c. A bare denyall of the Minor is sufficient on my part, and I look upon the charge as very uncharitable, without further proof. Methinks it becomes not any modest Christian to accuse strongly, and prove weakly. But let me retort thus; To admit to your Prayers and Sabbaths the wicked, as such, is unlawfull; You admit to your Prayers and Sabbaths the wicked, as such; Therefore, &c. Sir, I am much mistaken in all the practice of the Church, if excommunication doth not as well exclude the wicked from the society of prayers, as the Sacrament. By your means I hope for further light, and some Logicall Account of this business in controversy. And I am willing to attend you at your Call, to be taught by any man of a Christian temper. I shall take leave to adde here somewhat relating to our discourse yesterday, concerning *Judas* and the Passover. I say the presence of an hypocrite disclos'd pollutes not the Ordinance: because *Judas* was such a one, [was he not known and discover'd by Christ, to be a Devill?] and yet he was present at Christ's institution. Consider, I pray, of the passage *John* 13. there is mention of th

the laſt Supper. After the firſt part of it, Chriſt roſe and waſhed his Diſciples feet, then he lay down again, and proceeded to the inſtitution of the Holy Sacrament, at which *Judas* being preſent, received the peece of bread, ψωμίον, which Chriſt ἐμβάψας, having put his hand in the diſh, gave him. *Judicent eruditi.* Again, I ſay, Chriſt at this Paſſover did not eat the Lamb; for the time of ſlaying the Lamb was not yet come. The Lamb was ſlain and eaten by the Jews, 'tis plain, after Chriſt's paſſion. For they would not enter into the Judgment-Hall, leſt they ſhould be defiled, but that they might eat the Paſſover. *John* 18. 28. What Paſſover then did Chriſt eat the night before? Not the Lamb, but unleavened Bread and bitter herbs. After that, followed the *Poſtcœnium*, wherein the Holy Sacrament was inſtituted. This I ſhall make out further at our Meeting, and you ſhall ſee we may be very confident in ſome opinions without any true ground. I am Sir,

Your very humble ſervant,
C. B.

Thus did the poor man labour to make his peace with the Adverſary, but in vain, and being

being now weary of this endleſs controverſy; he ſought after ſome refreſhment in the company of ſome Miniſters his friends, not very remote, and endevoured to hold a meeting with them at ſome convenient times for mutual conference and comfort. And that the Meeting might not be obnoxious to the Cenſure of ſuch as watch for advantages, He ſent to Mr. To. the following paper, which although it came not to the effect therein particularly mentioned, yet hath attained its general end, and made way for the Lecture now begun among us; and unleſs the people be over-cold in their Affection to the lawfull Preachers; or themſelves, ſome of them, afraid to do their duty, it is like to continue. The paper mentioned, with Mr. T's anſwer, is not aſhamed here to offer it ſelf to the Candid Readers view:

Amica Collatio.

1. { † *De Deo.* / *De Homine.*
2. { *De Chriſto.* / *De Eccleſia.*
3. { *De Scriptura.* / *De Traditionib.*

1. THe end of this Collation is not for any Indulgence to the Body, but for refreſhment of the mind; and cheriſhing one another in the Studies of good Learning and Religion.

d

4. { *De Peccato.* / *De Gratia.* }

5. { *De Angelis.* / *De Sanctis.* }

6. { *De Imaginibus.* / *De precibus.* }

7. { *De Lege.* / *De Evangelio.* }

8. { *De Baptismo.* / *De Eucharistia.* }

9. { *De Fide.* / *De Operibus.* }

10. { *De Votis.* / *De Juramentis.* }

11. { *De Pietate.* / *De Charitate.* }

12. { *De Patientia.* / *De Spe.* }

Huc spectant fere omnia.

ligion: and therefore here shall be more Discourse than Drink.

2. Every one of the Company, consisting only of Scholars, shall stand to his six-pence Commons, and if he come not, shall send his money with a letter of excuse; otherwise, he shall pay it double. Those present shall not exceed above the other six-pēce apeece in bread and beer and other pertinents.

3. This Meeting shall be the first Tuesday in every Month, unless the day be (upon some exigent) changed; and every one in his turn shall provide a *Latin* Lecture to be read at the appointed place, immediatly before dinner, not exceeding half an hour, upon two Heads of

of Theology, according to the order of the Catalogue. †

4. That Lecture shall yield matter of Discourse, *pro* and *con*; and for the more variety of Conference every Fellow of this Society shall bring some pocket-volume, or some new Tract to be communicated to the rest, and considered in the By. And moreover, They shall impart what Intelligence they have *De Rep. literaria*.

5. That the Society may be the better furnished for their private Studies, they shall give each other a Note of such Books as they can lend in exchange for other, and the mutuall returns shall be made within the month; That none may be a loser, some record is to be made hereof.

6. In this Meeting nothing shall pass that may either be offensive to the Commonwealth, or injurious to the good Name of any private person, living or dead; And every one shall use all Gentleness and Condescention of the other, remembring who hath said, *He that is greatest among you, let him be servant of All.*

Qu. 1. Whether it be not the Duty of the lawfull Ministers to shew some extraordinary zeall and care in preserving people in the

Unity of the Church, when ſo many unordained men are ſo zealous and diligent to draw them into ſeparation.

2. Whether Communions ought not to be celebrated, at leaſt, thrice a year, according to the Rule of the Church: and to that end the People to be duly prepared by Catechizing, and, where need is, by particular Conference.

3. Whether the lawful Miniſters, for their mutual encouragement and furtherance in the work of their Calling, ought not to aſſociate themſelves, and at certain appointed times of meeting perform ſome Exerciſe by turns.

Mr. *T.* to Mr. *B.* *Aug.* 30. 53.

My Dear Friend,

YOur's I received on Friday; that and the afterday was ingag'd in the ſervice for the third day. On Monday I communicated the encloſed (which now I return) to D. *We do ſo exceedingly approve it, and the compiler of it, that we heartily deſire you, who are ſo prudent a* [illegible] *to the young ſociety, either to bring the ſame Paper with you on the firſt Tueſday of the next Month, or another Paper, with Additions, as you ſhall think*

think fit (though in point of Laws, as in Caſes of Conſcience, the exceſs of determinations may be offenſive) to be communicated to New College, ſo contrived, that to prevent any poſſible exception, we may impart the view of it to him that ſits at the Helm, and if not deſire, yet give way for his concurrent ſociety in the innocency and induſtry of the deſign. We think when we do hunc lapidem movere, *we do* amoliri omnem. *God direct and proſper you and us.*

It was not long after this time, when Mr. *B.* having celebrated the Holy Euchariſt at *Sudeley*, Mr. *H.* as his manner had been before, crys out, *Murder*, in his Pulpit, and withall makes ſhew of a readineſs to confer with any body, and make good his charge. Which news was brought Mr. *B.* by one of the Baylifs, and by the ſame hand a few lines were preſently ſent by Mr. *B.* ſignifying to Mr. *H.* that he was glad to hear now of an offer of Conference, and that he would be ready to wait upon Mr. *H.* at his time and place before ſome diſcreet Auditors of his choice, to anſwer his charge, and give him account of his doings at *Sudeley*.

To this note, after three weeks interval,

had Mr. *B*. anſwer brought him to his houſe in theſe words of

Maſter *H.* to Maſter *B. Octob.* 19. 1653.

MAſter B. *I received your Chalenge, which you ſent by Baylif* T. *and am willing to anſwer it (in the ſtrength of God:) and becauſe you give me liberty to chooſe time and place, and Auditors; Sir, I do chooſe* Nov. 9. *next following for the day, and the publick meeting houſe of* Winchcomb *for the place, where I ſhall not fail (God aſſiſting) to be ready to prove,*

" That ſuch a mixed Adminiſtration of " the Sacraments, that is uſually practized " in the Pariſhes of *England*, is unlawful " in the Adminiſtrators in giving, and the " People in receiving. *As for the perſons before whom this Conference ſhall be held, I ſhall chooſe my deſpiſed Brethren who are Paſtors of the Churches, and thoſe ſimple Diſciples (as you call them) over whom the Holy Ghoſt hath made me Overſeer. You have the liberty to chooſe what ſober perſons you pleaſe. Sir, if you reſolve to maintain this unchriſtian practice in your ſelf and others,*

you

you ſhall meet at the time and place aforeſaid an opponent of

Your loving friend,

C. H.

Your chalenge is ſo triumphantly reported about the Country by your friends, that I believe here will be many Godly perſons of the places adjacent.

Maſter B. *to Maſter* H. *Octob.* 20. 1653.

SIR,

THat which you are pleas'd, in your military language, to call a challenge (which yet you have been ſo wary as to anſwer after three weeks ſpace) was indeed a friendly Civil requeſt, that I might wait upon you at your appointed time and place in the preſence of ſome diſcreet witneſſes (that is, in ſome neighbours houſe, as the bearer could, and did aſſure you) to anſwer your charge againſt me for my Miniſtring at *Sudeley*. Your publick meetings I do not approve: they tend to faction in the Church, and perhaps will end in ſedition againſt the State, if you be not the wiſer. See *Sleidan*'s Commentaries, of the diſorders of *Germany*. But Sir,

if you pleaſe to meet me on the Lords da next at night, at *Mr. F's* in one quarter of an hour's diſcourſe (poſſibly) we may contrive ſome way for your ſatisfaction,

He was waited for but he came not.

Your ſervant, C. B.

Mr. B. to Mr. P. & Mr. Tr. Oct. 20. 53

WOrthy Friends,

I have ſome reaſon to think that you are miſinform'd by Mr. *Helme* concerning me: wherefore I trouble you with theſe few lines, to aſſure you, that I am ſo far from deſpiſing you, that I do not uſe to mention you *ſine honoris præfatione*, and in my heart do much value your learning and piety; yea, I do reckon you in the number of my honor'd friends:

Non eadem ſentire bonos de rebus iſdem,
Incolumi licuit ſemper Amicitiâ.

That firſt. Next, whereas I am required to anſwer at the publick meeting-place at *Winchcomb Novemb. 9.* before a confluence of thoſe that are called by my opponent the Godly, and am named the Challenger, I truly profeſs unto you, that in my note to Mr. *Helme*, about three weeks agoe, I only deſired

fired him in humble manner (grounding my request upon what the bearer told me of his readiness to conferr with any man of a different way, and to make good his cause) to appoint a time, place, and some discreet persons, to be witnesses, and I would wait on him. Let him shew you my Note. I never heard of any good order at any late-publick popular disputes: and it is against my peaceable disposition and Studies to engage my self to the noise & factions of such meetings. Twill be better sure, first to confer in private: I will meet Mr. *Helme* at Mr. *Freemans* house, if he will; The sooner the better; Let him chuse some select friends of judgment, and I shall be glad to have both of you present, to keep us within the Laws of Academicall Disputation.

Upon which meeting, if we can agree upon any publick orderly way of Tryall, that may tend to a good effect, with leave of Superiours, I shall, God willing, be ready, and either answer or oppose, so far as it concerns me. I most desire to confer by letters with any sober Divine,

Nec quenquam fugio.

Your very humble Servant,

C. B.

That

That ſame week was ſent to Mr. *H.* a paper conteining three falſe Doctrins to be confuted at Gods houſe in *Winchcomb* by ſome neighbouring Miniſters *Novemb.* 9. with an Epigram to the erring Brethren: *Papiſts look one away, &c.* See it immediately before the Diſpute.

Mr. *H.* to Mr. *B.* October 31. 53.

SIR,

There was a nameleſs paper ſent to me with three queſtions and a Libell at the end of it, directed to the erring brethren; the Meſſenger ſaid it came from you. I deſire to know who thoſe erring Brethren are. The queſtion I propos'd takes in the ſubſtance of what is in difference between you and me; And I ſhall be ready the day and hour appointed, viz. 10. *of the clock on the* 9. *day of November next, at the Meeting-houſe at* Winchcomb, *which you Idolatrically call* God's Houſe, *to juſtify (through Grace) that aſſertion I ſent to you, and I do deſire your poſitive Anſwer, whether you will be there or not to anſwer, as you firſt propoſed, my oppoſition.*

Your friend ſo far as you are
for truth, C. H.

Mr.

Mr. B. *to Mr.* H. *November* 1. 53.

SIR,

I am very prone of my ſelf to wait on you either privately or publickly, but you know, I think, or may know, that my Intention was for a private meeting. I am aſſured by ſome judicious friends, that no ſcholaſtic Order is to be hoped for at your publick Meeting: Wherefore I may without any injury to my Cauſe decline it; being ready to anſwer, either by word before ſome diſcreet witneſſes, or by writing, as you ſhall pleaſe to propoſe your Arguments. But pray, let them be Arguments, not ill words, as *Libell*, *Idolatry*, *Murdering*, and other the like elegancies of yours. In all wayes that become an ingenuous man and a Chriſtian, I am your ſervant.

All-Saints-Day.

Mr. B's. *Reply to Mr.* A. P.
Octob. 31. 53.

DEar Sir;

Si judicas cognoſce. My ſelf am beſt able to inform you, both what my Thoughts are, and what my Actions are. Ever ſince I

was

was initiated into Holy Orders (which wa
above twenty years ſince) it hath been m
Deſign in preaching (with ſincerity and ſim-
plicity of heart, I thank God, though with
much weakneſs) to commend unto my Hea-
rers both the Form and the Power of Godli-
neſs; not one without the other, but Both
Quæ Deus conjunxit——I could never ap-
prove of thoſe that pretending to ſet up the
Power, cry down the Form, that is, all de-
cent and comely Rites and Ceremonies or-
dained by the Church; nor of thoſe, that, while
they were zealous for Rites and Forms, ne-
glected the Power. The Church of *Englan*
I have always reverenced, I mean in reſpect
of the excellent conſtitutions and Laws of it:
as for corrupt practices of Officers or Mini-
ſters therein, I can be ſorry for them, I can-
not defend them. And now, ſince the late
obſtinate Diſorders of our people, I am more
in love with the Beauty of the Church, appe-
ring ſtill in the ſaid conſtitutions. Till I find
a better Church, I muſt have leave to conti-
nue in the communion of this. A cauſeleſs ſe-
paration from it, I cannot excuſe from the
crime of Schiſm. In the Miniſtration of the
Sacrament I indeavor to follow the Rule ſo far
as I can: and after the beſt preparation I can
uſe, admit only thoſe that joyn with me in holy
profeſſions,

profeſſions, and ſerious and ſolemn engagements to lead a Chriſtian life. If I be enformed of any particular, that ſcandalouſly breaks his Vow, I will take heed how I admit him again without ſatisfaction. But, where things are doubtful, I encline to the more favourable part. Private Conference, either by word or Letter, I much deſire with any of your Temper; Publick I refuſe not, if it may be quiet and orderly. Your Letter I much thank you for; I will ſtudy it, and give you Account. This general Anſwer I ſcribled, and ſent you this next morn after the receit of yours, that you may know I have kindly taken it, and that I heartily am,

SIR,

Yours C. B.

His fuller Anſwer to Mr. A. P.

Dear Sir,

THE Zeal that ſparkles all over your Letter of the 26. of *Octo.* (which I have now had leaſure to read ſo often, that I can read it perfectly) calls for a more particular Anſwer, than I gave you on Monday laſt. Expect only a few brief notes upon it, till I have the opportunity of a friendly meeting.

You

You ſay you do not find but Mr. *H.* proceeded according to what I propoſed to him. My note ſhews that I offered a meeting at the place he would appoint, in the preſence of ſome diſcreet Auditors: What place can be underſtood, but a private place or houſe? as I alſo explaned my ſelf to the Baylif, that received of me the Paper, mentioning his houſe, or Mr. *F's*, ſo that, it is no receding from my offer, but a refuſal of an unreaſonable demand, if I come not among the confuſed multitude. Peruſe a paſſage in *Hookers* Preface concerning publick Conferences or Diſputes, and conſider whether Mr. *H.* his publike meeting will admit of any ſuch Rules. You ſay, You are *grieved to hear of me as an Oppoſer of Reformation*, &c. If you would make it appear to me, that the work at *Winchcomb*, is a work of true Reformation, Oh how glad ſhould I be to contribute my beſt aid to it. But I *adminiſter the holy things* (you ſay) *to Prophane Wretches, the haters of Godlineſs, who the next hour*, &c. We confeſs our ſelves to God, miſerable and wretched ſinners, but we truſt in his mercy, that he will accept us (in Chriſt) not weiging *our merits, but pardoning our offences.* I ſhall uſe the beſt means I can, to find out thoſe you characterize,

and

and deal with them accordingly; but after all care there may be falſe Profeſſors and Revolters in the trueſt Church. I countenance none in their corrupt and looſe waies, but on the contrary, ſhew the danger of ſuch looſeneſs, and exhort unto all Goſpel-Order: nor do I know any of my Company that do ſcornfully refuſe it. I am not guilty of the bloud of Chriſt, which I highly honour, and Miniſter to thoſe only that ſeem to me to thirſt after it, and receive it with fear and reverence, after profeſſion of Faith and Obedience. If by *Prælatical, formal, ſuperſtitious uſages*, you mean thoſe decent Orders and Rites which have been eſtabliſhed and uſed in the Church of *England*, I have much to ſay for the Lawfulneſs of them, yet am ready to ſubmit to the commands of my Superiors, when they ſhall eſtabliſh another way agreeable to Gods word. I will neither ſhut my eyes againſt the light, nor reſiſt the Spirit of Chriſt, for which I daily pray. The way of holineſs, I conceive, doth not exclude laudable Forms and Cuſtoms, which ſerve for edification in holineſs. Me thinks it is very fit the body ſhould act a part in the ſervice of God with the Soul, for both are Gods. I had almoſt forgot that you ſay, I have *no Call to do what I do.* If

Mr.

Mr. *H.* hath as lawful a Call as I, I will ſeek Communion with him the next day I know it. The out-comers that will make uſe of my Miniſtry, I cannot deny, ſo long as they have no Paſtor that will own them upon lawful conditions: for the conditions of that ſame new Covenant are not right in the eyes of very knowing, orderly, and well-diſpoſed People. It had been, methinks, a good way to have propoſed that Covenant to debate among Neighbouring Miniſters, before it had been obtruded on the People, under penalty of loſs of Communion. The excellent Scriptures you commend unto me, I have conſidered, and will give you my ſenſe of them, when I ſee what deductions you can make thence againſt me. I do think there are as good Preachers, and as holy men of that way which you call Prelatical, as are under Heaven: *quos longè ſequar, & veſtigia ſemper adoro*: I ſpeak of *Jewels, Hookers, Uſhers, Halls, Lakes, Andrews*; I could weary you with names worthy of eternal memory. It is eaſy to call yours the Lord's, (they that are truly ſo I honour, not deſpiſe,) and others a *looſe, dead-hearted, carnal party*. For my part I judge no man, but pray that we may all labour to make our calling ſure, and work

our

out our own ſalvation with fear and Trembling. By the Grace of God we are what we are, if there be any good in any of us. That Spirit of Grace *whoſe name* (you ſay) *hath been among ſome a derided thing* (who have given the occaſion to that deriſion I will not ſay) is by all ſober perſons ever to be magnified and adored. Without which you ſay well, I cannot *approve my ſelf a member of his body, much leſs a Miniſter of Chriſt.* And therefore I pray for that Spirit, and (not expecting new Revelations) ſtudy what is the mind of the Spirit in the Holy Scripture. For the explication whereof, becauſe a late Doctor of ours, hath done more than any in this Age, I commend his paraphraſe to you on the New Teſtament, ſpecially on the Texts you cite to me: and deſire you to peruſe [*Sine Studio partium*] his Treatiſe prefixed concerning the *New Lights:* and if you look upon his Expoſition of the *Apocalyps*, you will have no cauſe to repent of your pains. Having mentioned this Author, of no leſs piety and modeſty, than Learning and judgement, I would gladly know your opinion of his Latin Book againſt *Blondell.* If either *Blondell* be right for Presbytery, or He for Epiſcopacy, [*vide ſi vacat, Thorndik of Prim. Gover. cap. ult. of*

the Right of the Church.] both waies your New-Church-way will prove plainly Schismatical. I do verily believe the power of Godlineſs may be upheld without the overthrow of antient forms. Nor can I be ſo irreverent to our Fore-fathers, ever ſince the Reformation, much leſs to all Antiquity, as to ſlight and condemn what they either appointed or retained. My rule is this: *Rites of Religion not oppoſite to Scripture may lawfully be uſed.* What ſay you againſt it? Have they not alſo (if they make for order and Edification) a *reall tendency* (in your phraſe) to advance Jeſus Chriſt? What tendency to this end is in the countenancing of Un-ordained Miniſters, and in uſurping a Power of Government in the Church, which Chriſt hath depoſited in other hands, and in ſetting up ignorant Perſons to be publike Orators, I confeſs, Dear Sir, I do not underſtand. And my oppoſition againſt ſuch waies, proceeds meerly of duty. In which oppoſition I ſhall carry my ſelf with all Moderation, approving and imitating what is commendable in the Adverſary, while I oppoſe what I can prove to be blameable. Him will I willingly confer with, either by my tongue or pen, in ſuch manner as I may ſafely do it: but much rather with your ſelf, becauſe I

conceive

conceive you are of a ſweeter temper, that I mention not parts, Learning, and the like things, which (although without Grace they are not much to be valued, yet) are very uſeful and ſubſervient to the *work of God*. Wherein I heartily deſire to joyn with you ſo far as I can, and I hope in whatſoever we be differently minded, God will in time reveal even that to us. To his gracious direction and bleſſing I commend you and your labours, praying, that as you are endowed with precious gifts of Zeal, Elocution, Learning, Judgement, Meekneſs, ſo you may employ them happily to the Glory of the Donor, in procuring the Unity and Tranquillity of his Church.

Your ſervant in Chriſt,

Nov. 2. 1653.

C. B.

Mr. B. *to Mr.* H. Novem. 7. 1653.

SIR,

I Am aſſured, you are reſolved to hold your publick meeting on Wedneſday next, and I am deſired by ſome of your Neighbours, as well as your ſelf, to be preſent. I intend, God willing, to wait on you at your hour,

On this condition that you permit me being Reſpondent to ſtand in your Pue, that I may be ſeen and heard the better, and be free from the croud. You, and if they be preſent, Maſter *Palmer*, and Maſter *Tray* I will embrace (and only you, in order) as my Opponents, placing your ſelves a part as you ſhall ſee moſt convenient. That the people abſtain from all rudeneſs and diſturbance of our work, your Officers muſt take care.

Qu. *Whether it be lawful to adminiſter and receive the Holy Sacrament in Congregations called mixt? Aff.* My meaning is clearly to affirm what you deny, though my Terms are not juſt the ſame.

Yours in the Truth,

C. B.

All was granted, but the Pue.

An

An Answer to a Question proposed by the separating Minister to one of the Parish of *W.* 1653.

Qu. *Of what Church are You?*

1. I Am a member of the *Parish Church* wherein I live; which, although it be much distracted by a Minister of separation, yet it is not destroyed. Although we cannot come to the usual place for the present, safely and without danger of being engaged in Prayers against our Conscience, and of being seduced by erroneous doctrin, and much offended and grieved by uncharitable sentences

ſentences and judgements upon our Chriſtian Brethren; yet we preſerve the practice of our Religion at home, and ſometimes partake of the publick Ordinances abroad, and are in readineſs to ſubmit our ſelves either to the preſent Miniſter, when he ſhall approve himſelf our lawful and Orthodox Paſtor, or to ſome other duly to be placed over us.

2. I am a Member of the *National Church of England*; which we acknowledge a true viſible Church of Chriſt, though ſomewhat clouded now and defaced by the modern innovations: to which yet there are many thouſand profeſſors that have not bowed. And the Communion of this Church we will not forſake, but pray that Government agreeable to the word of God may be reſtored to it.

3. I am a Member of the *Church Catholick*, into which I was received at my Baptiſm; and I deſire to joyn with any peaceable Chriſtian in the whole world, in the profeſſion of that Faith which was once deliver'd, and in ſuch forms of Worſhip

which

which agree therewith. And we pray, that by the means of Christian Princes a *Free General Council* may at length be assembled, to reconcile the Differences, and guide the Affairs of Christendom, to the good of Souls, and the Glory of our Common Saviour.

TO THE MINISTERS HIS *OPPONENTS*

ὑγιαίνειν.

THE report of our Diſpute *being ſpread abroad, and (as it happens in other fights)* Victory *being cry'd on both ſides, I thought it reaſonable to publiſh this* Account *of it, that the impartial* Reader *may judge. Another reaſon is, that* our ſelves, *my brethren (this compellation you will not diſdain for* Jeſus *ſake) may in cold blood* review *what hath paſſed, and either I may come to you, or you to me, as* Truth *ſhall require. The firſt honour is to* Defend *the Truth, the ſecond to* Yield *unto it. If any of you will* write, *remember thoſe words of the Grave* Hooker. "*There will* "*come a time when three words uttered with* "*Charity and Meekneſs, ſhall receive a far* "*more bleſſed reward, than three thouſand* "*volumes written with diſdainful ſharpneſs* "*of wit.*

If you pleaſe to hold an other perſonal *meeting, it is fit you* anſwer *our Arguments*

againſt you concerning what you delivered a Winchcomb Nov. 8. *in diſgrace of our Mi-niſtry* and *Pariſh-Churches: but if you g on to decline* anſwering, *and are only goo at* oppoſing, *I do not refuſe to appear agai in* defence, *not only of our* miniſtring the Sa-crament, *but of the other two Theſes*, Tha your new Churches, are not the only tru Churches, *And*, That Chriſt was trul Preached before theſe late years. *Upon which (in conformity to the old Vniverſity faſhion) I take leave to adde here, not any* Libel, a *one of you called it, but my ſad* Epigram.

Papiſts took *one* away, but *you* combine
To rob the People both of *Bread and Wine*.
They blame us, 'cauſe we have not Rites ſ
many;
But *you* condemn us more, 'cauſe we have
any.
They will not call us *Catholicks*; *you* can
Scarce yield us the firſt name of *Chriſtian*.
Poor *Engliſh* Church! thy enemies from *Rom*
Were *cruel*; more *unkind* are theſe at *home*.

Your ſervant in the Truth

Oxon. *Nov.* 16.

1653. *Clement Barkſdale.*

Disputandi Sobrietas, Ecclesiarum Medicina.

A true Account of a Dispute at *Winchcomb-Parish-Church November 9.* 1653. Written by a careful Observer *November* 11. and Printed with Licence *November* 16. for the satisfaction of the People at and neer *Winchcomb.*

Great is the Truth, and it will prevail.

UPON the ninth of this *November*, between nine and ten in the Morning, Mr. *Barksdale* Minister at *Sudeley* the Respondent having waited a while for the comming of the Opponents, first enters Mr. *Helm* Minister at

Winchcomb, immediately after him enters Col-
lonel *Aileworth* Juſtice of peace, Mr. *Tray* Mi-
niſter at *Oddington*, Mr. *Wells* Miniſter a
Tewksbury, Mr. *Chaffy* Miniſter at *Naunton*, an
ſome other. 1. After they had taken poſſeſſi-
on of the Miniſters Pue, all together, the Re-
pondent aſcends a Pue *ex oppoſito*, which he ha
cauſed to be erected for the purpoſe (his frien
Mr. *Towers* Miniſter at *Toddington*, and ſom
other Orthodox Miniſters taking up a lowe
ſeat next unto him on the right hand:) where
firſt falling on his knees, after a ſhort ejacula-
tion he ſhews himſelf, and ſaluted his Oppo-
nents, and after ſome little Pauſe the Queſtio
was propoſed, *Whether it be lawful to Mini-
ſter and Receive the Holy Sacrament in Con-
gregations called mixt ?* (*Or, in our Pariſh-
Churches ?*) *Aff.* The prior Opponent Mr
H. deſired to begin with prayer. *Take you
liberty*, ſaid the Reſpondent, who after th
Preface (wherein like a good Orator, th
Opponent told the people that Truth mu
look for oppoſition, and that the Reſponden
was a native of the place, and himſelf a
ſtranger) and the prayer done, ſpake thus
You will now give me leave alſo to ſpea
three words, 1. To God. 2. To the Hearer
3. To the Opponents. 1. To God I mak
my humble addreſs, and intreat you to lif
up

up your hearts with me, that he would be pleaſed to open our eyes that we may ſee the Truth, to open our Hearts that we may embrace the Truth, and to give us courage to confeſs the Truth, and to hold it faſt unto the end, for Jeſus Chriſts ſake, to whom be glory for ever. 2. To the Hearers my earneſt deſire is, that you would lay aſide all prejudice, and partiality, and liſten to what ſhall be ſaid on either ſide with ſilence and patience. And becauſe I am a man of a ſlow Tongue, of a tender Forehead, of a frail Memory, of a weak Judgement, I have the more cauſe to beg of you my friends, your ſecret aſſiſtance by your mental prayer, that God would ſupport me ſo far as I defend his cauſe. For I declare in the preſence of God, the ſearcher of hearts, that I do verily think that to be true which I maintain, and that I am not willingly an enemy to true Reformation, or the work of God in this place (as I have been grievouſly charged,) nor am I a friend to any thing that can juſtly be called Popiſh, or Antichriſtian, God knows I deteſt and abhor it. 3. Laſtly to theſe Gentlemen my Opponents my requeſt is, that you would deal with me fairly and Scholarlike. Take you your turns, and give me mine to ſpeak: come you on, one after one,

and let me have liberty to repeat, to deny, to diſtinguiſh, to explain what I ſay, ſo far as is needful. And to conclude, if we cannot agree in our opinions, let us yet (I pray) be one in Affection, and preſerve amongſt us that Chriſtian Peace and Charity which is the mark and the honour of the Diſciples of our gracious Lord and Maſter.

The Reſpondent in one of his papers afore this exerciſe had called the publick Meeting place (as they term it) the Houſe of God; But one of the Opponents Mr. *W.* put forward, and, omitting the Queſtion, began in a light velitation about that Appellation after this manner.

W. *The Houſe of God, it is Superſtition to call the place ſo.*

B. I deny that propoſition; prove it.

W. *The People of God are alone his Houſe: God dwells in the Hearts of his Saints.*

B. I Anſwer, the Houſe of God, is either the *Spiritual* Houſe, or the *Material* Houſe; The Hearts of his Elect People are the Spiritual Houſe wherein it pleaſeth God to dwell and reſide; This place built by our pious Anceſtors, and ſeparated from other uſes to his Honour and Service, may without offence be called his Material Houſe.

W. *This Houſe was not built for the Honour and Service of God.*

B. I

B. I expect your proof of that Propoſition.

W. *Thus*: *The Houſe built in the reign of Popery, and for the Honour and Adoration of Saints, was not built for the honour and Service of God: But, this Houſe was built in the reign of Popery, and for the Honour and Adoration of Saints; Therefore this Houſe was not built for the Honour and Service of God.*

B. I repeat, *The Houſe built*, &c. And I anſwer to the major by diſtinguiſhing of the end for which the Houſe was built. The *End* is either *principal*, or *leſs principal*: This Houſe was built for the Honour and ſervice of God, as the *principal End*; it was built for the Honour and Adoration of Saints as the *leſs principal End*. In the Reformation of Religion our Church reteined the firſt End, and rectifyed the ſecond, Honouring the Saints with a *pious Memory*, not Adoring them with *divine Worſhip*. Hear the Church her ſelf ſpeak in her excellent Liturgy.—

W. & H. *Away with it, we will hear none of your Liturgy and old Forms.*

B. But I muſt clear the Church from all ſuſpicion of Adoring the Saints, and make the Truth evident out of the Collect for All-

Saints

Saints day, and 'tis worthy to be heard of All: " Almighty God, which haſt knit together thy elect in one Communion and fellowſhip, in the myſtical body of thy Son Jeſus Chriſt our Lord; grant us grace ſo to follow thy holy Saints in all vertuous and Godly living, that we may come to thoſe unſpeakable joys which thou haſt prepared for them that unfeignedly love thee through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord, *Amen.* I beſeech you All to take notice that our Church is free from that ſuperſtition, or whatever it be called, wherewith the Church of *Rome* is juſtly charged. The Saints are in our Prayers for *imitation*, not for *adoration.* Our Houſes therefore being truly built at firſt for God's Service, and now uſed by us for the right end, the ſetting apart of ſuch places for divine Worſhip, makes them *relatively* holy, and gives God a peculiar Title to them, and he owns them for *his*; " My Houſe ſhall be called a Houſe of prayer.

W. *Your own Houſe may be as well uſed ſo, and called Gods Houſe, and a holy place.*

B. No, Though God may be ſerved in every place, and I ſerve him dayly in my own houſe, yet the *publick* place *ſeparated* for his ſervice, I ſay, becomes his by a peculiar right. All the world is his, but our Churches

are

are his to a ſingular and holy purpoſe, by a ſingular dedication. As he hath his *Day*, ſo alſo a *place* for his Worſhip, both *Holy*. "Keep ye my Sabbath, and reverence my "Sanctuary. For your ſatisfaction ſee Mr. *Mede*'s Divine Treatiſe upon *Hallowed be thy name*, and his letter to D. *Twiſs*. Now let us *Hoc agere*, and come to the buſineſs of the day.

H. *To the Queſtion of the day, my firſt Argument is this. That it is not lawfull to adminiſter the Sacrament in your Pariſh-Churches, thus I prove: If you have not a true calling in your Church of England, then it is not lawfull for you to adminiſter the Sacrament in your Pariſh-Churches: But you have not a true Calling in your Church of England; Therefore it is not lawfull for you to miniſter the Sacrament in your Pariſh-Churches.*

B. I repeat, *If we have not*, &c. I deny your minor, and affirm, we have a true calling in our Church of *England*.

H. *If in your calling by the Biſhops you are engaged to ſuperſtitious and unlawful practices, then your calling in the Church of* England *is not a true Calling: but in your calling by the Biſhops you are engaged to ſuperſtitious and unlawful practices; Therefore your Calling in the Church of* England *is not a true Calling.*

B. I

B. I deny your minor, and affirme, we are not engaged to any ſuperſtitious and unlawfull practices is our Calling by the Biſhops.

H. *The keeping of Holy-dayes [I do not mean Holy-dayes upon occaſion, as our Thanksgiving dayes, but your ſet holy-dayes] the keeping of your holy-dayes is an unlawfull practice: But in your Calling by the Biſhops you are ingaged to the keeping of Holy-dayes; Therefore in the Calling by the Biſhops you are ingaged to unlawfull practices.*

B. I deny your major, and affirm, that the keeping of our holy-dayes is not an unlawfull practice.

H. *A practice againſt Gods command is an unlawfull practice: But your practice is againſt Gods command; Therfore your practice is an unlawfull practice.*

B. Not againſt God's command; how prove you that?

H. *My text is in* 20. Exod. *where you ſhall find it a part of the fourth Commandement, Six dayes ſhalt thou labour and do all that thou haſt to do: Therefore, it is againſt Gods command to keep any one of the ſix dayes holy.*

B. I anſwer two wayes, 1. By retortion. 2. By interpretation. 1. By *retortion*, I ſay your Argument rebounds upon your ſelf, and condemnes your own practice; and that Text

in

your ſenſe, that we are commanded to labour ſix dayes, takes away as well *occaſionall* holy-dayes as ſet and recurrent. For our Thanksgiving dayes are not dayes of labour. 2. By *interpretation*, the words you urge are not *preceptive* but *permiſſive*. God requires one day in ſeven, and allowes us ſix, not denying us the liberty, if we be ſo devout, as to conſecrate ſome part of them alſo to his publick Service. The Jewes had among their holy-dayes the feaſt of Dedication, of human Inſtitution, which yet we read that Chriſt himſelf obſerved.

H. *Worſhip not inſtituted by God is unlawfull Worſhip: But your Holy-dayes are a Worſhip not inſtituted by God, but by human authority; therefore your holy-dayes are unlawfull Worſhip.*

B. I anſwer to the minor, and ſay, that our holy-dayes are not the *Worſhip* it ſelf, but a *circumſtance* of the Worſhip: and circumſtances of Gods Worſhip may be ordained lawfully by *men.*

H. *Well, your calling by the Biſhops (however) is not lawfull, and thus I prove it. If the Scripture allowes of no Dioceſan Biſhops, then your calling by the Biſhops is not lawfull, But the Scripture allowes of no Dioceſan Biſhops; Therefore, &c.*

B. I deny your minor, and affirme, the Scripture does allow Dioceſan Biſhops.

H. *There is not ſo much as the name of a Dioceſan Biſhop in all the Scripture.*

B. But there is more than the *Name*; there is the *Thing*, there is the *Office*. The word *Trinity* is not in the Scripture, yet we Believe the Trinity.

H. *Where doth the Scripture ſhew us any ſuch office? bring forth your proofe of it.*

B. 'Tis my part to anſwer your proofs. Now you put on the *Reſpondent* the part of an *Opponent*. Let them that have been bred in the Schools judge whether you do like a fair Diſputant.

H. *Our diſpute is not an Univerſity Diſpute, but for the clearing of the truth to ſome Godly People.*

B. Do you think the Univerſity Diſputations (which are the beſt in the world) are not for the clearing of the Truth? But what ſaith Mr. *Tr.* ſhall I propoſe my Argument, to prove *Dioceſan Biſhops* by the Scripture?

Tr. *You have liberty to propoſe your Argument, and ſhew in what part of Scripture you can find the Office of any Dioceſan Biſhop.*

B. I allege principally the Epiſtles of S. *Paul* to *Timothy* and *Titus*, and particularly *Tit.* 1. 5. For this cauſe left I thee in *Creet*, that

'that thou ſhouldſt ſet in order the things 'that are wanting, and ordaine Elders in e-'very City, as I have appointed thee. Out of which Text I will prove that *Titus* was a Biſhop, and *Creet* his Dioceſe, and therefore here we have found the Dioceſian Biſhop. But before I proceed, let me aske you, Gentlemen, do you not put me upon this to enſnare me? Do you mean no harm to me?

Tr. *No I aſſure you; wherefore in Gods Name ſpeak freely.*

B. I humbly thank you: but firſt let me openly declare before all this Aſſembly, that I have no mind to oppoſe any act of State, nor will I meddle at all with the *Lands* and *Lordſhips* of Biſhops, only I plead for the *Order* and *Function* of Biſhops, I plead for the primitive Apoſtolicall Biſhop and no other; And that this Text is for me, thus I prove: He that hath a power to ordaine Elders, and ſet things in order in the Church is a Biſhop: But *Titus* hath a power to ordaine Elders, and to ſet things in order in a Church: Therefore *Titus* is a Biſhop.

H. But you muſt prove him to be a Dioceſan Biſhop.

B. So I do. *Creet* was his Dioceſe; the whole Iland was committed to his Goverment. *Dioceſe*, my friends, is a Greek word

(in

(ἐπὶ τῶ διορθῶσαι, to order and administer the affaires of Gods House) signifying the territory or circuit of a Bishop. So *Creet* may be well called the Diocese of Bishop *Titus*, having under his inspection (as tis plaine) the Elders of the Cities there.

W. *The Cities were not under* Titus *his Goverment, he was not a Ruler of the Iland.*

B. He was Ruler of all the Christians (I mean onely them) through all the Cities and Country.

Tr. *But* Titus *was an Evangelist: Therefore no Bishop.*

B. I deny the Consequence: He was an *Evangelist*, while he went about Preaching and Planting the Gospell, And he was the *Bishop* of *Creet* when he was fixed there by *Paul* 'to Ordaine Elders, and put in order the 'things that were wanting.

H. We find Titus *in other places beside* Creet, *and Bishops of those times were not non-residents: Therefore he was not Bishop of* Creet.

B. Bishops may lawfully be (and were anciently) *non-resident* for some time, to wit, while they attend the business of Religion abroad, and procured the greater good of the Church: In which time of their absence their places are supplyed at home by their *Deputies.*

Tr.

Tr. *But Sir, I pray, conſider* Titus *was an extraordinary Governor, and therefore no Dioceſan Biſhop. And you diſpute fallacionſly, unleſs you put in the word Ordinary.*

B. I ſay he was a Dioceſan Biſhop, or (if you will) rather an *Archbiſhop*, For I conceive the Elders of every City to have been *Biſhops* and *Overſeers* of ſeverall Miniſters and Congregations: therefore he was an ordinary Governour. Thus I argue: He that ordaines Elders, and orders the things in the Churches, is an Ordinary: But *Titus* ordaines Elders, and orders things in the Churches; Therefore *Titus* is an Ordinary.

Tr. *But I mean he was called to that office in an extraordinary manner.*

B. No neither. He was called in the ſame manner as *Timothy* and others, by Impoſition of the Presby tery: Therefore He was called in an Ordinary manner.

Col. A. Timothy *was called (ſaith* Paul *in another place) by the laying on of his hands.*

B. Noble Sir, you ſay very true; and the places are eaſily reconciled thus: Divers Elders laid hands on *Timothy*, among whom S. *Paul* probably was chief.

H. *And was* Paul *too a Dioceſan Biſhop?*

B. The Apoſtles *common* Dioceſe was the whole world, which by agreement they di-

vided

vided among them: and S. *Paul* was *especially* the Apostle of the Gentiles. But in the *Apostles* I grant some things are *extraordinary*,

Tr. *Pray, make it out cleerely that* Titus *his case is not extraordinary, otherwise you dispute fallaciously.*

B. Truth needs no sophistry. Thus I make it out. The office that is to continue in the Church, and to be succeeded in through following ages, is no extraordinary office: But this office of *Titus* is such; Therefore, &c.

H. *What? is it to continue to the worlds end?*

B. Yes, to the worlds end. For it is Christs Promise; 'I am with you alway even to the 'end of the world. *Mat. ult. ult.* What say you to my argument? Ordination and Jurisdiction are Offices or Powers needfull to the Church in all Ages: This Office of Power or *Titus* was Ordination and Jurisdiction; Therefore this Office of *Titus* is needfull to the Church in all Ages, and therefore no extraordinary Office. And my Brethren, I would have you to know, we are able to shew out of the best Records and Monuments of the Antient Church, that there was a *succession* to the Apostolicall Bishops in these parts of their Office; And the *Catalogues* of succeeding Bishops in severall Apostolicall Sees are

yet extant: And the Fathers and Councills and Eccleſiaſticall Hiſtories come in here with undeniable evidence, that Dioceſan Biſhops are ſucceſſors of the Apoſtles in the Government of Churches.

H. See, godly Brethren, the ſubtilty of this man: He will not contain himſelf within the Holy Scripture, but tells us of Fathers and Eccleſiaſticall Stories, and human Authorities.

B. Who ſucceeded in the government of Churches after the Apoſtles, we muſt learn out of the writings of the next Ages. And I tell you not only Fathers and Church-ſtory, but all other good learning is requiſite in a compleat Divine. Mark this, you bold unlearned new-ſpeakers and expounders of Scripture; Mark it and remember it well. And for the queſtion of Church-government eſpecially, it is impoſſible to find a better way to underſtand the Scripture, than by the *practice of the primitive times* of the Chriſtian Church.

H. Expound Scripture by the practice of the primitive Church? Do ye heare him brethren? as if Scripture needed the help of the Church. We thought we ſhould finde him enclining to Popery.

B. I deteſt all *Popery*, charge me not ſo ignorantly. Upon my life I will make it good

by the judgment of the moſt learned and ſound *Proteſtants*, that the practice of the primitive Church is a great light to Scripture. But this requires the ſearching of Books, which at your leſure I ſhould be glad to ſhew you.

W. Proteſtants, Whom do you mean by Proteſtants?

B. I mean thoſe that proteſt againſt the Errors & Innovations of the *Roman* Church in latter times, and endeavour to reform Religion according to the Scripture, and the primitive pattern.

H. You ſee he takes in the practice of the Primitive Church again.

B. I do and muſt; and thus I argue: That Government which in the primitive Ages took place in the Churches planted by the Apoſtles, is the Apoſtolicall and Scripture Government: But the Government of Dioceſan Biſhops took place in the Churches planted by the Apoſtles; Therefore the Government of the Dioceſan Biſhops is the Apoſtolicall and Scripture Government. Now let me ſee who will anſwer me.

W. Antichriſt, Antichriſt was working betimes.

B. Whether it be *Antichriſtianiſm* to eſtabliſh, or to overthrow the Function of Biſhops

ſhops, let all conſidering men judge by the Premiſes.

W. But why do you take in any thing elſe with Scripture, as if that alone were not ſufficient for us?

H. Yea Scripture, Scripture, we are contented with Scripture.

B. Give me leave to explain my ſelf to All, and I entreat you, Harken, The Scriptures perfection I do thankfully acknowledge: but the things conteined in the Scripture are ſome of them conteined in it *plainly* and *expreſly*, to be apprehended by every Reader; other things are conteined there *implicitely*, *virtually*, and ſo as there is need of many helps to make our deductions thence. And for the Scripture-government I know no better light to ſhew it than the practice of the Antient Church. I argue thus: They that have commended to us the very Books of Scripture are fitteſt to give us the ſenſe of them, eſpecially in point of Government: But the Antient Church hath commended to us the very books of Scripture; Therefore the Antient Church is fitteſt to give us the ſenſe, &c. And I pray Mr. *W.* how will you prove that the Scripture is the Word of God?

W. I know it by the Teſtimony of the Holy Spirit in me.

B. But how will you convince another that will not believe your Spirit, that the Scripture is divine? Here you may make very good use of the Testimony of the next Ages, that received it from the Apostles and gave it down to their Followers.

W. and H. Popery, to depend upon the Testimony of the Church.

To. Since you are many at once upon one (which is not fair) give me leave to put in sometimes in behalf and for the ease of the Respondent. We say, we depend upon the testimony of the *Antient* Church, not of the *now Roman* Church. The Roman Church is a very corrupt Church; the Primitive times were far more pure.

W. What do you talk of Purity after the Apostles times? Did not many Heresies creep in?

To. By this Argument you will condemn the Apostles times also: for even then were not wanting Schismes and Heresies.

B. Will you leave this as it is, and proceed to some farther Argument, and come close to the business of the Sacrament? I say it is lawfull for me to Minister the Sacrament in the Congregation at *Sudeley*.

H. Thus I proceed to shew, that your calling is null: therefore you cannot Minister

Minister

Miniſters that Prophane the holy things of the Lord, their calling is null: But many Pariſh Miniſters prophane the holy things of the Lord; Therefore their Calling is null.

B. You ſhould ſay *All Pariſh Miniſters:* for you hold it is not lawful to Miniſter in any mixt Congregation, and ſuch you ſay are all Pariſh Churches. But ſay neither *All*, nor *Many*, but apply the *minor* to me, whom you have publikely in your Sermons condemned (before you uſed the Chriſtian wayes of more private Admonition:) and then I deny both your premiſes, both *Major* and *Minor*, both are falſe and Scandalous. Neither doth the prophaning of Holy things null the Miniſters calling: nor have I prophaned the Holy things in the ſaid Miniſtery.

H. Firſt then I prove the major *fully: you that have Bibles, Brethren, pray turn to the places. Ezek. 22. 26. & 44. 13.*

B. What prove you thence?

H. That prophaning the Holy things nulls the Prieſthood, for they ſhall be no Prieſts unto me, ſaith the Lord.

B. I anſwer to the Text, by diſtinguiſhing between the *Order* of a Prieſt, and the *Office* of a Prieſt. They ſhall be no Prieſts *unto me*: here is a ſuſpenſion from the Office and work of the Prieſts, no nulling of the Prieſthood it ſelf.

W.

W. Then it ſeems by you, They were Prieſts and no Prieſts. God ſaith, They ſhall not; you ſay, they ſhall remain Prieſts.

To. He hath ſhewed you how. They were Prieſts and no Prieſts in divers reſpects: They were ſtill of the *Order* and race of Prieſts, they were not to *officiate* any more in the Prieſtly office. God would not accept them, he ſaith, *They ſhall be no Prieſts unto me.* Yet who knoweth but upon their repentance God might readmit them, not by a new Conſecration, but by *Abſolution.* And ſo Miniſters, when they are reſtored after ſuſpenſion, are not new *Ordained*, but only the *Cenſures* taken off.

Tr. *Well, you grant at laſt a removall and ſuſpenſion from the office, though the calling be not nulled: And ſo you will confeſs you deſerve to be removed from Officiating, if you prophane the Holy Things of the Lord.*

B. I will grant, that a Miniſter, if he be ſo prophane, ought not to officiate: but I think the proceedings againſt a Miniſter muſt be tender and wary; *Receive not an accuſation againſt an Elder without two or three witneſſes.* Conviction muſt go before Cenſure, and upon Repentance reſtauration followes. And I refuſe not to be ſo dealt with.

Tr. *Proceed therefore, and prove your* mi-

nor,

nor, *that he doth prophane the holy things of the Lord.*

H. *They that adminiſter the Sacrament promiſcuouſly to All, do prophane——But you ſo adminiſter; Therefore,* &c.

B. Your minor's falſe and Scandalous. The Congregation of my hearers, I will confeſs, is mixt: not ſo the Company of my Communicants. Underſtand what my practice is. After divers preparations, when the Sacrament is to be adminiſtred, I proclame, *All that are not prepared Depart, You that are prepared, Stay.* Theſe, after the departure of the reſt, I look upon as prepared in ſome meaſure, and ſo I go on.

H. *If you do adminiſter the Sacrament to the unregenerate——*

Tr. *No, no, ſay thus——to the ignorant and Prophane.*

H. *You Miniſter the Holy Sacrament to the ignorant and prophane.*

B. You do well to prompt one another. Prove it. Or, if you pleaſe, I anſwer, perſons may be ignorant and prophane, either *in the eye of God*, that ſearcheth the ſecrets of the heart; or *in the eye of the Church*, that looks upon the outward appearance. In the former ſenſe ſome of us may be ſuch, we are not ſo in the latter.

Tr. *Pray Mr.* B. *let me ask you, Do you know every one that you Miniſter the Sacrament to?*

B. I will give you an ingenuous anſwer: I do not know every one.

Tr. *O! how can you juſtify your ſelf in this?*

W. *Why here's a confeſſion of the fault we lay to your charge: you give the Sacrament you know not to whom? We have done now.*

H. *We thank the Lord, Brethren, that the good work is ſo happily brought to a concluſion this day. You hear what he confeſſeth, he doth not know ſome of them, who they are, and yet he ſhould know them to be viſible Saints. A good Shepheard knows his flock.*

B. Hold a little, my Maſters, and take me with you. Have patience while I give in my Anſwer. I do not know them, and yet I do know them. I know them not, ſome of them, by name, I have no familiar acquaintance with them, I do not know them in civil relations: but I do know them, and own them in a religious relation. I know no hurt by them.

Tr. *You Know no hurt by them. Alas, Alas, poor creatures!*

B. Hear me out. I do not only know no hurt by them, but I know much good by them,

them, their visible and cheerful *profession* of the true Christian Faith, their reverent behaviour at their Prayers, their humble Confession of Sins, earnest desires of pardon, hearty promises of new obedience. An appearance of *Faith* and *Repentance*, joyned with *Charity* and *thankfulness* satisfies me very well for the time, till I find they do deceive me.

H. *You are deceived with too good an opinion of them. If I durst, I could say somewhat against some particulars.*

B. God forbid you should have hurt for telling any one a *necessary truth*. For my part, I think and hope the best of all, that promise fair, I Judge according to *charity*. I know one may act the *Saint* to day, and the *Devil* to morrow. Let me tell you, 'tis the judgement of our Church, after the Fathers, that *Christ* delivered the Sacrament to *Judas* also, who went out immediatly after to betray him; and, before that, was discovered by his Master to be a Devill. You will not grant this: however, you know *Peter* himself, that was so zealous, upon triall, the very next day denied his Master, yea denied him with *cursing and swearing*. All the rest forsook him and fled. Their strength was little, and their knowledge was less: witness

the

the Diſciples going to *Emaus*, *fools and ſlow of heart*, and the queſtion propoſed about the Kingdom, *Acts* 1. What is the loweſt meaſure of grace I will not determine. Where I ſee any hopes or weak beginnings of Chriſtianity, I embrace and cheriſh them. In the School of Chriſt there be many little ones, that muſt be gently uſed; and there be ſome great ones, that muſt not be offended, but upon great reaſons. Why ſhould I not think better of others than my ſelf, when the *B.* Apoſtle calls himſelf the *chiefeſt of ſinners*, and leſs than the leaſt of Saints? He that hath beams to caſt out of his own eye, muſt not be picking motes out of his Brothers eye. 'Tis true the Brother muſt be admoniſhed, eſpecially by the Miniſter: but this muſt be done diſcreetly and orderly, and with meekneſs of ſpirit. He that obeys *one*, or a *few*, ſcapes the cenſure of the *Many*: and may not be reckoned as an alien. None is ſo, but he that proves obſtinate after the methods of Counſel and Reproof. And verily, Mr. *H.* it had been a good method for you, to have admoniſht me and the reſt of the Congregation, whom you are offended with, and to have received our Anſwer, before you condemn'd us in your Pulpit. And that Anſwer will ſerve now: In what we have offended God,

we

we ask his pardon: In what we have offended you, we will give you ſatisfaction. Thus doing, we ſhall not be excluded from Communion by any juſt ſentence.

H. You have ſome that might be named, that both before and after the Communion, have ſhewed themſelves no ſober men.

B. That may be, and I ſhall deſire to be informed of them, that I may labour to reform them, or exclude them if they be proved open and notorious evill livers. And I do often commend and endeavour to bring into better practice, the Duty of fraternall Admonition and Correption; which is now the more neceſſary, becauſe we want publick Diſcipline [ſee D. *Hammond* of Fraternall Admonition] Having declared my ſelf thus, I muſt conclude your Argument againſt my Communicants, till you prove your Accuſation better, to be only an Argument of your own uncharitableneſs.

H. I cannot yet allow of your Call to Miniſter: For Miniſters truly called are appointed and ordained by the Godly people: But you are not ſo appointed; Therefore——

B. You will, I hope, hereafter allow me equall liberty to oppoſe your Orders: I have mine from a Biſhop aſſiſted by his Presbyters, according to Apoſtolicall Inſtitution, and

and the constant practice of the Church. The People cannot confer on us our power: They may approve and assent to our Calling, and give testimony of our good conversation, and receive us when we are sent unto them. I am owned as a Rector of the People to whom I Minister.

W. We are servants of Gods people. Paul, *I am sure, saith so of himself.*

B. He saith so, and so doe I, their servant *for Jesus sake.* Let them acknowledge us their spirituall *Rulers* and *Fathers* in Christ, and we will in all humble condescension, be their *Servants* for Jesus sake. Jesus himself, our Lord and Master, stiles himself a Minister or Servant of his Servants: and he hath said, He that will be greatest among you, let him be *Servant* of all. 'Tis easy to distinguish between a servant *by voluntary condescension*, and a servant by *necessary subjection.*

Tr. *You said before, that in case of prophaning the holy things, you would confess a Minister deserves Suspension. Who shall suspend him, but the Congregation? What other power is there?*

B. I confessed the prophaner of Holy things to deserve great punishment: but, after due *Admonition*, and upon his *obstinacy*, not else.

Yet,

Yet, I cannot ſee, how the *people* have any Authority to ſentence him.

Tr. *Who would you have to do it? Who?*

B. To ſpeak freely, I would ſubmit my ſelf to my Ordinary, the *Apoſtolicall Biſhop* (or, if you like the Latin word better, the Preſident or Superintendent:) for whom I have ſpoken before. And I am ready to joyn with you in a *Petition*, that we may have an Apoſtolicall Biſhop ſet over us, as it was in practice of the antient Church.

H. You ſtand too much upon the practice of the Antient Church: come to the Scripture.

B. I am ſorry you value the practice of the antient Church ſo little. Pray, where is your maine ſtrength in Scripture for your *Independent* or Congregationall Churches.

H. Let us read the famous Text, Mat. 18. 15, 16, 17, 18, 19. 20. *Out of which Text I frame this Argument: If here, be meant by the Church a Congregation from which lyes no Appeale, then is the Independent Church founded upon this Text: But here is meant a Congregation, &c. What elſe will you conceive by the Church?*

B. I am very inclinable to Saint *Chryſoſtome's* interpretation, who by the Church, underſtandands the Elders and Rulers of the Church.

H. The word Church is no where ſo taken in all the Scripture, and therefore it cannot be ſo taken here: ſhew us any place.

B. It doth not follow: for ſome word may poſſibly ſignify that in one place, which it ſignifies no where elſe; and again there may be other places, though I cannot readily ſhew them: I will conſider of it.

H. No, I doe aſſure you, tis never ſo uſed: and therefore I hope you will yeeld to the Word, that we may go on with one conſent in the work of God.

B. God grant it, if it be the Work of God: but you have not cleered it yet. I cannot yield to your ſenſe for this Reaſon: That ſenſe of Scripture (concerning Church-government) which was never received by the Doctors of the Antient Church, is not the true ſenſe of Scripture: But your ſenſe of the place was never received, &c.

H. Still, ſtill he declines Scripture, and would lead us to human Ordinances.

B. As for human Ordinances, I can embrace them ſo far as they are not oppoſite to Scripture: but now we are upon the Interpretation of Scripture, I muſt profeſs I have been ever bred in the Church that requires all her Miniſters to receive the Scripture, as interpreted by the Antient Fathers, and to propoſe nothing

nothing to the people, contrary to what was derived out of the Scripture by them. I am not ashamed of my Mother the Church of *England*, nor (by Gods grace) ever shall I. And I doe heartily warn all that hear me, to take heed (as they tender their Soules) of departing rashly from the Communion of of the said Church.

W. I thought where we should have you.

B. You have me where I have ever been, and where I mean to abide, till I am convinced. I am not unwilling to learn of any one. And pray Mr. *W.* tell me, whether you hold not a Synod of chosen men, gathered out of your Churches, to have authority over them all?

W. No authority at all: such a Synod may be of use for advice and counsell, not for goverment, or for the exercise of any jurisdiction.

B. Then as I conceive your modell is very imperfect, and me thinks your Ministers in their severall Congregations look like so many little Popes, For, the Pope is the Great Independent, and will allow of no Appeal from him, no more will you.

H. Pray Mr. B. *quiet the People.*

B. I beseech you, good people, I beseech you attend with silence and patience.

Tr. Where presently followes Execution,

there

there can be no appeal: But after the ſentence of the Congregation preſently followes execution; If he hear not the Church, let him, &c. Therefore from the ſentence of the Congregation can be no appeal.

B. Well argued: I repeat. *Where preſently, &c.* I anſwer firſt to the *major* or firſt propoſition. There may be an appeal after execution of the ſentence of the Congregation, [In your own way may not the wronged perſon appeal from you to your ſelves?] In the *Presbyterian* you know there lyes an appeal to the *Claſſis*: but that I take not on me to maintain. I know no power to excommunicate but *Epiſcopall.*

Tr. *Then it ſeems by you, the Biſhop is the Church, and the ſole judge of the Congregations.*

B. Not ſo neither. Hear my Anſwer, I pray, and do not you ignorant fellowes laugh at that you do not underſtand. The Biſhop is conſidered, either *Sole* or alone, or as he ſits *in Cathedra* crowned with *Presbyters.* In this later ſenſe, I humbly conceive the Biſhop is (or ought to be) Governour of the Congregations within his Dioceſe: And ſuch Biſhops we can ſhew innumerable in the ancient Records of the Catholique Church. I am very ſorry theſe Gentlemen are ſo ill read

in good Books of our own Engliſh Divines, as to deny a truth ſhining ſo bright upon them. Mr. *Tr.* have you not ſeen the learned *Thorndike* of the primitive Government, &c?

Tr. *We cleave to the Scripture, and call you to the foreſaid text. Can you ſhew one place where Church is taken for the Biſhop and his Presbyters?*

B. What if I cannot? The Authority of the antient Fathers is ſufficient for the preſent to commend my interpretation to ſuch as reverence *Antiquity*. But becauſe I would gladly pleaſe you, I will *offer* another ſenſe of the words in queſtion, which will come neer to you, but is not fully yours. That is, after the firſt admonition by *one*, and the ſecond before *two* or *three*, it is the mind of Chriſt, that a greater number ſhould be made acquainted with the buſineſs, tell it to the *Many* for the ſhaming of the offendor, as the Apoſtle ſomewhere ſpeaks; the words may the more probably be taken in this ſenſe, becauſe as yet the Diſciples were not ſetled under a Church-government, and ſo there remaining no more to be done after this ſhaming of the offendor before a good number of Fellow-Chriſtians, i. e. the Church, he was to be henceforth, till his amendment, accounted as

a heathen, and might be profecuted for any offence before the heathen Tribunalls, Which profecution was not lawfull againſt thoſe that would hear the Church. [See 1 *Cor.* 6.] But this will do you no pleaſure, unleſs that which followes in the next verſe belong unto the Congregation too: but that cannot be, if Chriſt ſpake the words to his Apoſtles, and gave the Keys, and Power of Binding and Looſing to them and their ſucceſſors, as I believe he did. Conſider of it. *See the learned* Dr. Hammond *of binding and looſing.*

To. Give me leave to add ſomewhat here in confirmation of what was laſt ſaid. Scripture you know gives light to Scripture. Chriſt elſwhere ſaith to *Peter* that he would give the Keys to him, *Matth.* 16. 19. And *John* 20. 21, 21, 23. he ſpeaketh to his Diſciples and thus enſtateth them in that power: *Then ſaid Jeſus to them again, Peace be unto you, as my Father hath ſent me, even ſo ſend I you; And when he had ſaid this, he breathed on them, and ſaid unto them, Receive yee the holy Ghoſt, whoſoever ſins yee remit, they are remitted unto them, and whoſoever ſins ye retain, they are retained:* theſe are the ſolemn words of Ordination.

W. The words are ſpoken to Peter, *and to the Diſci ples as they were Chriſtian profeſſors,*

(and

(*and ſo they do belong to our people*) *not as they were appointed by Chriſt to be Governours of his Church.*

To. The words ſignify a power committed to them, which they uſed as *Governours* ('tis plain) and which they left to the Biſhops their *Succeſſours.*

Tr. *The Apoſtles had no ſucceſſors being gifted with a miraculous power.*

B. The Apoſtles are to be conſidered in two reſpects, either as *planters* of the Churches, and to that purpoſe endued with a miraculous power, to make way for, and to give confirmation to the Goſpel, or elſe, as Governours of the Churches, inveſted with the ordinary laſting power of ordaining Elders, of binding and looſing, and of ſetting things in order: herein who were their Succeſſors, you may ſee if you will inform your ſelves in the book of *binding and looſing*, and in the *Latin diſſertations* againſt *Blondellus.* Pray take it not ill that we often aſſert this: it is of ſuch concernence, that with this truth the Miniſters of *England* muſt either ſtand or fall. We ſpeak not for Biſhops to be *Lords* of Lands, but *Fathers* of the Church. You muſt all mark that.

Tr. *The difference 'twixt us appears plainly, you are for Biſhops, which you call the Primitive*

mitive Apoſtolical Biſhops, and in them yo
place the power which Chriſt hath left to hi
Church: We are for the Bodies of Congrega
tions, which we ſay are under no ſuperior
neither Biſhops nor Presbyters, but abſolut
and independent in reſpect of man, and immo
diatly under Jeſus Chriſt.

Col. A. *Biſhops and Presbyters are all on*
in the New Teſtament, namely Acts 20.17
Paul *ſent to* Epheſus, *and called the Elders o*
the Church τὸς πρεσβυτέρους, *and v.* 28. *the ho*
Ghoſt hath made you overſeers, ἐπισκόπους; *There*
fore Presbyters and Biſhops are all one.

P. Noble Sir, I anſwer, *Biſhops* in th
new Teſtament, are alſo called *Presbyter*
but they are more than thoſe we now ca
Presbyters, who are to be ordained and go
verned by the Biſhops. Any Presbyter ma
be called Biſhop or Overſeer of his own Pa
riſh, but thoſe we eminently ſtile Biſhop
now, who are Biſhops, or Overſeers and Ru
lers of thoſe Pariſh Biſhops or Presbyter
The Presbyters St. *Paul* ſent for from *Eph*
ſus were properly Biſhops.

Tr. *No, Hear my Argument. Th*
Church of Epheſus *was but one Congregati*
I prove it out of Eph. 2. *the two laſt verſes*
In whom (*Jeſus Chriſt*) *all the building fi*
framed together, &c. *A building fitly fr*

med together is but one Congregation: But the Church of Epheſus *was a building fitly framed together; Therefore,* &c.

B. To the Major. Not only one ſingle Congregation, but many united under one Biſhop may be ſo called. And that *Epheſus* was not a ſingle Independent Congregation, but a Metropolitical Church, you may learn of the moſt Reverend Primate Dr. *Uſher*, a man I think of great Authority among you alſo, as among all Scholars, moſt juſtly. I refer you to his Geographical Tract of the Aſian Dioceſe.

Tr. *Return to the Text,* Mat. 18. *v.* 19. *I ſhall prove it undeniably, that a ſingle Church hath an independent power. But firſt will you grant me, that two or three may be taken for a ſmall Congregation?*

B. Yes, I deſire to grant you all I can, without injury to the Truth.

Tr. *Then thus I argue: Where is the Duty and the Bleſſing, there is the Power: But in a ſmall Congregation* [*where two or three,* &c.] *is both the duty and the Bleſſing; Therefore there is alſo the Power, namely of Excommunication.*

B. *Where is the duty,* &c. You leave out a very neceſſary word, *Independent.* For ſuppoſing that a power of Excommunication

were in a particular Congregation, I cannot grant it is there *independently*, but there may be an Appeal: But did you ever hear of an Indepent Church of two or three?

Tr. *Yes, there may be a Church of ſo few, and that independent.*

B. A *private* Church, I grant, not a *publick*, enabled with power of Excommunication, a power ſupreme. Lo you, here is Popery in a little volume: an independent, abſolute, ſupreme Church made up of two or three.

H. *Did you not grant to Mr.* Tr. *that two or three may be taken for any ſmall number? now you recall your words. You know, if there be twenty in a company, we ſometimes ſay there be two or three.*

B. No indeed, that's too far wide. Let the people judge of this, whether any will ſay there be two or three, if there be twenty perſons met in a room. Two or three, that is, twenty. (ſilence I pray!) But Sir, the words of Chriſt are verified, if there be but barely two. And therefore I may juſtly think it too ſmall a number to make the Church, mentioned v: 17. It cannot be for this reaſon. The Church in the 17. v. is of more authority, and more in number, than the two or three mentioned in the ſecond admonition, v. 16. But two or three v. 19, 20. are not of

more

more authority nor more in number, than the two or three mentioned v. 16. Therefore the two or three v. 19, 20. are not the Church mentioned v. 17. Anſwer this, and you ſhall hold your Supremacy to the worlds end for me.

H. *You hold an Appeal from the Church to the Civil Power, which is plain Eraſtianiſm.*

B. Eraſtianiſme? I ſhall make it appear to be Chriſtianiſme. But what was *Eraſtus*, pray?

H. *I came not here to be Catechized by you.*

B. Eraſtus was one that denied the power of Excommunication in the Church: which I do not, but deſire it may come into practice upon true Rules If you would know *Eraſtus*, ſee the Book of Binding and looſing, at large. And noble Sir, you that are a Civil Magiſtrate, let me call you to witneſs, that I ſtand here an Advocate truly to plead for the Supreme authority of this Land, and I undertake to ſhew that the Higheſt powers in the Commonwealth have alſo the Higheſt Rule of the Church, and may receive Appeals from any Chriſtians that complain of wrong in any Congregation whatſoever.

Col. A. *The Higheſt Powers haply doubt*

of

of that Authority, and forbear to execute any ſuch, till they be more fully ſatisfied.

B. Were I worthy, I would requeſt them to know their power, and uſe it for the reſtitution of Primitive Epiſcopacy. They doubt, you ſay; but Sir, theſe men flatly deny that authority of the Civil Magiſtrate in matters of Religion.

H. *And how I pray do you prove it?*

B. Let every ſoul be ſubject to the Higher Powers. Every man, ſaith St. *Chryſoſtome*, whether Lay or Clergy.

Col. A. *There is no ſuch diſtinction of Lay and Clergy in the Scripture. All the Lords people are* ☞ *his Portion.*

B. Sir, you ſay moſt true, that All the Lords people are his Portion, that is, as ſelected and called out of the World: but his Miniſters are more peculiarly his, as called from among his People, and admitted nearer to him, being ſeparated for the Miniſtration of Holy things. But however, all ſorts of men, I ſay, whether Miniſters or others, muſt be ſubject to the Higheſt powers.

Tr. *Yea, in Civil things they muſt be ſubject, not in Eccleſiaſtical. The Powers are diſtinct.*

B. They are diſtinct in their *Objects* or Matters about which they are exerciſed:

they

they are united in the ſame *Subjects* or Perſons that are ſupreme in all cauſes both Eccleſiaſticall and Civill.

W. You were wont to pray for the King in that ſtile.

B. Yes, when the King was, and now they that have the Kingly power may withall aſſume the ſame title, if they pleaſe.

W. By no means, Temporall Governors, power Spirituall?

B. The power of Civill Magiſtrates, in matters of religion, is called Eccleſiaſticall or Spirituall in reſpect of the *object* of it, about which it is converſant, not in reſpect of the manner of *operating*: For the ſupreme powers do not miniſter in holy things, in the Word, and Sacraments, and cenſures, but they take care and provide, that theſe miniſtrations be rightly and orderly performed.

H. But how prove you an appeal to be made to the higheſt power in a Church-caſe?

B. *Saint Paul* appealed unto Cæſar, *Act.* 25. 10, 11.

Tr. *Yea but that appeal was in a cauſe concerning ſedition.*

B. Hear himſelf ſpeak, For the Reſurrection of the dead am I called in queſtion, *Act.* 23. 6.

W. That was ſaid in policy to divide the Phariſees and Sadduces.

B.

B. However the Apoſtle ſpake nothing but the truth, as appears alſo by the words of *Feſtus, Act.* 23. 19. The queſtion was whether he might preach Jeſus and the Reſurrection.

Tr. *That Ceſar was* Nero, *a heathen tyrant and perſecutor, a fit man to meddle with Religion.*

B. He was, it ſeems, fit for *Paul* to appeal unto, for want of a better, and had he acquitted the Apoſtle, he had thereby given him a right againſt the Jews [*See* Grotius *of Authority, concerning this particular and the whole matter:*] As for the Supremacy of Chriſtian Kings this is one argument: If the Jewiſh Kings had power in matters of Religion, then have the Chriſtian Kings the like power: But the Jewiſh Kings, &c.

To. Let me adde another Argument out of the Prophet, concerning the Chriſtian Church, Kings ſhall be her nurſing Fathers, and Queenes her nurſing Mothers.

W. Read out the verſe, and you are anſwered:——They ſhall bow down to thee with their faces to the earth. Iſ. 49. 23. *Here is ſubjection rather than ſuperiority.*

To. A ſuperiority of Government and Patronage is included in the name of *Father:* but theſe Fathers are *Sons* of the Church too

in

in another ſenſe, and ſubject to the ſpirituall guides of their ſoules; ſubjection and Government may conſiſt together in ſeverall reſpects.

B. Will you turne to the Text in *Matth.* 18. once more, and hear a fair Interpretation of it out of the Excellent Paraphraſt: *Tell it to the Church*] *i. e.* to the Rulers of the Aſſemblies. *Verily I ſay unto you*] to you the deſigned Rulers of the Church, and your Succeſſors the Biſhops——

H. Enough, enough, pray who is your Author there?

B. Regard not ſo much, *who*, as *what*. No matter whoſe the words are, if they cleer the Text. This Author Mr. *Tr.* ſhews you the true ſenſe of the next verſe concerning two or three. It is the manner of Scripture, where ſeverall things are mentioned, to reſume the laſt firſt, and ſo go back. In this retrogradous order, the Power of the Church which was laſt mentioned is ſpoken of *v.* 18. and then the two or three are again mentioned, which were ſpoken of *v.* 16. I will cleer it, if you pleaſe, by ſundry the like paſſages. [*See in of Binding and Looſing pag.* 12. *&c.*

W. *We have enough of you already. I would not goe over the door ſill to Diſpute with one,*

one, upon whoſe ſpirit I ſee ſo much of the Pope.

B. No *Gloſter-Hall* man would ſay ſo, but you. And you ſay ſo, becauſe you have nothing elſe to ſay. I am far from Popery, and I doubt you are neer it, with your Independency.

Col. A. *But Pray-thee, what Author have you there on the Text?*

B. I will obey you. It is the great ornament of the Engliſh Church, the Learned and pious Doctor *Hammond.*

W. &c. *An Arminian, an Arminian!*

To, That's a very indirect anſwer, when the words alleged tend not to Arminianiſm, but to the ſupport of Chriſtianiſm.

B. I feared you would caſt ſome aſperſion upon this Brave Man, and therefore would have concealed his name under a ſilent veneration. But you are miſtaken when you think the Doctrine of Univerſall Redemption Arminianiſm. It was the Doctrine of the Church of *England* before *Arminius* was born. Wee learn it out of the old Church-Catechiſm. *I believe in Jeſus Chriſt, who redeemed me & all mankind.* And the Church hath learned it out of the plaine Scripture, where Chriſt is the *Lamb of God that taketh away the ſins of the World, &c.*

To.

To. God would have all men to be ſaved: Therefore Chriſt is the Redeemer of all men.

Co!. A. *Paul in that Text to Tim: ſpeaks* de generibus ſingulorum, *not* de ſingulis generum.

B. S. *Paul* ſpeaks *de ſingulis generum*: for elſewhere it is ſaid, Chriſt taſted death for every man, *Heb.* 2. 9. a convincing Text.

W. *There is a diſtinction of* voluntas ſigni, & beneplaciti.

B. If God hath ſignified and revealed to us, that he would have all men to be ſaved, then it is moſt true, that he would have All men to be ſaved. But he hath ſignified, &c. He knows not to lye or to diſſemble.

C. *I deſire to propoſe an Argument in this Queſtion, if you pleaſe to anſwer me.*

B. Moſt willingly. You are a courteous Gentleman.

C. *If Chriſt died for all men, then ſhall all men be ſaved: But all men ſhall not be ſaved; Therefore--*

B. I deny the ſequel of your major.

C. *Chriſt cannot fail of his intention: Therefore if Chriſt died for all men, all men ſhall be ſaved.*

B. I deny your Antecedent.

C. *To fail of ones intention argues imperfection:*

fection : But you muſt not lay any imperfection upon Chriſt :—

B. No, by no meanes. Therefore I anſwer. One may fail of his intention two waye: either *by ones own fault*, or *by the fault of another* to whom good is intended. Chriſt failes of his intention, not through his own fault, but ours: he is not wanting to us, we are wanting to our ſelves. And I beſeech you all, dear Chriſtians, take heed of conceiving hard thoughts of God & of Chriſt, as if he would the death of a ſinner.

Tr. *God in his eternall Purpoſe hath appointed to ſave ſome, and to damne others.*

B. The purpoſe of God is *abſolute* or *conditionall:* God purpoſeth not the damnation of any abſolutely, but Conditionally upon his refuſall of the meanes. [And for election, conſider what the Apoſtle ſaith, He hath choſen us in Chriſt, *Eph.* 1. 4. See alſo the judicious Mr. *Hooker*'s diſtinction of Gods generall inclination, and his occaſioned Will: *lib.* 5. f. 49.]

Wherefore Beloved, I charge you again, Take heed, that you think not ill of God and of Chriſt, as if he were not really and ſincerely willing you ſhould be ſaved. Hear Chriſt mourning affectionately over Jeruſalem, *How oft would I, and thou wouldſt not!* Hear God

God ſpeaking moſt pathetically in the Prophet: *As I live ſaith the Lord, I deſire not the death of a ſinner.* Will you not take his word? Take his Oath: *As I live ſaith the Lord, I deſire not the death of a ſinner, but that he turn from his way and live. Turn ye, Turn ye, why will ye dye, O houſe of Iſrael!* Turn yee, Turn yee, why will ye dye, O yee oppoſers of the Truth!

H. *You ſee, Brethren, what he is: we have enough of him. It is high time to conclude. Sir, I deſire to conclude all with Prayer.*

B. Sir, I have anſwered your Objections, and I take my leave of you. For, to your Prayers, I fear, I ſhall not be able to anſwer *AMEN.*

PSAL. 115. 1.

Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto Thy Name give the Prayſe, for thy Mercy, and for thy Truths ſake.

ADDI-

ADDITIONS.

ON the By, it was ſaid by Mr. *To.* that although there be no precept for Epiſcopacy in the New Teſtament, the Apoſtolicall Inſtitution of it is enough to commend it to us. For we have not more to ſhew for the Lords day, than for Epiſcopacy: How then can we maintain the one, and aboliſh the other?

When the opponent rejected the Authority of the Primitive Church, Mr. *To.* ſaid: You do the Papiſts greater ſervice than you are aware, when for feare of Popery you diſclaim the Fathers.

Col. A. *In the Revelation the Lords day is called κυριακὴ, there is the name, and we have the practice in other places: Holy aſſemblies on the firſt day of the week.*

To. True Sir, and ſo much we have for Epiſcopacy, as hath been ſhewed already.

B. I remember well, I have heard the Learned Doctor of the Chair, Dr. *Prideaux* publickly declaring in the Divinity School, that he could not prove the obſervation of the Lords

Lords day by Divine Command, in any place of the New Teſtament, but that the Apoſtolicall practice and example followed by the Church, was ſufficient to give it a kind of Divine right; The like may be ſaid for Epiſcopacy. Church by plain Grammaticall conſtruction doth ſignify no other thing than the Lords houſe. From κυριακὸν *Kyrc*, and by adding letters of aſpiration *Church*. *Hooker l.* 5. 13. [See the great *Hugo Grotius* of Authority, Ch. 11. Alſo the Conſiderations touching the change of Church-Government.]

The Reſpondent not knowing the moſt eaget Diſputant among his Opponents, craved his name: I was your Collegue, ſaith he. *R.* What *I. W.* of *Gloſter-Hall*! you were an early ſtudent in Divinity. I remember you read Dr. *Prideaux Lectures De Abſoluto Decreto, &c.* when you were but a Freſh-man. He is now admoniſhed to ſtudy his Anteceſſor at *Tewksbury* Mr. *Geeres* Book againſt Separation, entituled *Vindiciæ Eccleſiæ Anglicanæ*.

Another of the Opponents Mr. *Tr.* asked the Reſpondent, whether he did not Preach before he was Ordained: Yes, ſaid he, once or twice in this Church above twenty years ſince, being Mr of Arts, and after that Tryall of my ſelf, I entred into Orders. Your men

do not ſo. [See *Grotius* of *Authority* pag. 181.]

Mr. *W.* At the mention of Chriſtmas was ſtartled and cried Popery. Mr. *B.* Anſwered there is no hurt in the Word, and for the *Thing*, the keeping of that and other Chriſtian Feſtivalls, we commend the ſober Chriſtian, to the Reſolution of the ſixt Quære by the eminent Dr. *Hammond*.

Where the Reſpondent diſtinguiſheth of Biſhops as *Lords* & as *Fathers*, he would not have the Reader ſuſpect him as if he envied any temporall Honour or Riches to the Fathers of the Church. For who knew how to abound ſo well as They? The good works of the Biſhops of *England* would make a fair volume, which perhaps ſome body will collect. Our Mother *Oxford* eſpecially cannot forget how magnificent Founders and Benefactors ſhe hath had of this ſacred Order.

One of the Opponents, about admiſſion of people to the Sacrament, urged that proverbiall ſpeech of Chriſt *Matth. 7. 16. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thiſtles?* No, ſaid the Reſpondent, while they *continue* ſuch, but on their *Converſion* they may. For the true ſenſe of that place hear the Divine Paraphraſt. *By their fruits ye ſhall know them.* Ye ſhall certainly know them and diſcern them,

them, if you take notice of, and weigh the doctrins, which when they have gotten some Authority with you, they will presently endeavour to infuse into you. They that make no other use of their being counted Prophets, but to infuse higher degrees of all kind of piety and charity into you, ye may resolve they are sent from God. For the Devill would never help men to credit and reputation in the world, who should make use of it only to the advancement of piety. But if their designs be to infuse into their followers any seeds of impiety, injustice, uncleanness, uncharitableness, sedition, rebellion, &c. Let their pretences and behaviour be never so fair, be sure they are false Prophets.

When it was said by the Respondent that Christ died for all men: one *Cr.* a disciple of Mr. *H.* was heard to say, *Then, it seems, Christ dyed for the Devills and all:* not considering that Divine Text to the *Hebrews*, 2. 16. *For verily he took not on him the nature of Angels, but he took on him the seed of Abraham.* Where the Paraphrast judiciously, as his manner is, amending the Translation, saith: For tis not said any where that he catches hold of Angels as they are falling, or running, or carried captive from him, to save or rescue them from ruine, or to bring them

out of captivity, but only to men doth he this favour peculiarly.

To his Congregation at Sudeley-Caſtle.

AND now, Beloved, I end with a Requeſt to you, in Saint *Peter's* words: Giving all diligence, adde to your Faith, Vertue; and to your Vertue, Knowledge; and to Knowledge, Temperance; and to Temperance, Patience; and to Patience, Godlineſs; and to Godlineſs, Brotherly-kindneſs; and to Brotherly-kindneſs, Charity; For if theſe things be in you & abound, the greateſt objection of our Opponents will be then fully anſwered, if it be not yet. Let no man ſuffer ſin upon his Brother, but let us exhort and admoniſh one another, *lovingly* and *faithfully*; and let the moſt knowing and Zealous among you aſſiſt the Miniſter in the diſcharge of his duty, that no *open and notorious liver* may preſume to come with us to the Holy Table. Let us pray for a ſetled Publick Diſcipline, but in the mean, let us ſettle our ſelves, and keep as good order as we can; Let us ſhew the ſincerity of our Religion by our mutuall Love, and by our Meekneſs and Charity to our Enemyes and Calumniators;

Let

Let us evidence our having the *Spirit*, not by bold intruſion into offices not committed to us, but by bringing forth the fruits of the *Spirit*, Love, Joy, Peace, Long-ſuffering and the reſt. Finally, let us not be weary of Welldoing, but go on in every good Work with *courage* and *alacrity*, with our eyes fixed upon Heaven, ſo ſhall the mouth of the Adverſary be ſtopped; and the Lord ſhall open our lips, and our mouth ſhall ſhew forth his praiſe. *Amen.*

Scripſi 23. Novem. *die St.* Clementis *natali meo* 45. *An. Ch.* 1653.

Your Servant for Chriſts ſake.

C. B.

N. N. To the Reader.

CHriſtian Reader, Know that after the Diſputation ended, between two and three the Afternoon, Mr. B. *and Mr.* To. *retired to their Inn, whither the Baylifs and Churchwardens, and ſome other honeſt men of the Town came to them and gave them thanks. The next morning was deliver'd to the Servant of the Pariſh, a Paper to be preſented*

ſented to *Mr.* H. *and publiſhed, declaring that* ſome *Neighbouring Miniſters would be ready* (*by Gods help*) *on the Monday following to make good in the ſame place againſt Mr.* H. *and his brethren this neceſſary Truth which they deny*; That Pariſh-Churches of *England* are the true Churches of Jeſus Chriſt. *They came, but could not prevail with Mr.* H. *to come forth to Anſwer. Whereſo after ſome little conference with him at his own houſe* (*with the Account whereof I ſhall not now detein you*) *Mr.* B. *departed and Preacht at* Sudeley, *concluding with an Exhortation to Peace and Unity, and with a earneſt Requeſt to the Congregation, that they would give no offence, neither by word nor deed, to the other party. When the Account of the former Diſpute was come down, Mr.* B. *ſent two Copies, one to Mr.* H. *another to Mr.* W. *encloſed in theſe Letters, which being come unto my hand, I think fit not to conceal, and ſhall adde unto them ſome other ſince, to the end you may the better underſtand the Temper of the Author, and in what condition he is at this preſent*, December 17 1653.

Maſ

Maſter *Hekm.*

HAd you hearkned unto me and embraced my motion for a private conference, both you and I had ſaved ſome trouble; but ſince the matter is come thus far, I intreat you to peruſe the account with judgement, and let me receive from you any thing that may ſerve for the perfecting of it. I have not wronged you, nor do I remember any greater provocation in my former Letters, but that I once ſaid, *Your ſimple Diſciples*, which word I have cauſe to retract, finding by experience that they have much more of the Serpent, than of the Dove. From them I ſuppoſe, rather than from your ſelf, is a tempeſt a raiſing againſt me in the Higher Region: The opinion I have had of your Moderation and Ingenuity, yea and ſome degree of friendſhip with you formerly, enclines me to hope, that by your diſcretion all may be calmed. However, being not conſcious to my ſelf of any evill Doing either againſt private or publick perſons, I do ſecurely wait for the Event. I am enemy to no man: that's my Religion. They that make it a part of their Religion to perſecute Diſſenters, muſt take heed, leſt at their

great peril they do good to thoſe they malign; for that Good will accrew to thoſe that ſuffer for the Truth is out of queſtion with

Decem. 9. Your Servant,

C. B.

Maſter *Wells*,

IF ſo high a compariſon may be uſed, it may be ſaid of us, as it was of two great Romans by the Hiſtorian: *They learned in the ſame, that which in contrary camps they practized.* You and I were collegues in our Youth, and lately had ſome claſhing. But Sir, I wiſh you to uſe no carnal weapons; for I am informed there is ſome intent of force to be offered me. Forbear I pray, and take off any ſuch proſecution. Let us proceed in debate of what is in controverſy (if you pleaſe to proceed) without any other arms but ſuch as become Scholars and Divines, that is, reaſons and Arguments. You ſhall find me, I aſſure you on the word of a Chriſtian, very willing to yield to any thing I cannot anſwer. Read the encloſed as if you were not a party but a judge; and remember the concluſion in *Minutius Falix*, if you cannot forget you are a party, *Tu victor*

ſtor mei, ego erroris. Do not diſdain to write your mind to your old acquaintance and Countryman, and, if you permit, Loving friend ſtill,

Cl. Barksdale.

Decem. 9.

To the Right Worſhipful Richard Aylworth *Eſquire, and to the reſt of the worthy Juſtices met at* Winchcomb.

Decem. 17. 1653.

Noble Sir,

TO you I addreſs my ſelf, and by you to the reſt of the worthy Juſtices preſent with you, proteſting my readineſs to wait on you, and to be obedient to the preſent Governours in all lawful things, and namely, in uſing or not uſing the Book of Common Prayer. I am ready to uſe it, if it be permitted (as I ſuppoſe it is by Order of the Council of State *November* 12. laſt,) and I am ready † to lay it aſide, if they require it to be laid aſide: For I never thought it the only way of ſerving God. I have done nothing in contempt of any Act or Ordinance of State. I have ever Preacht Obedience to Superiours. Nor do I deſire to live any longer

† Never with contempt.

longer than I may be a profitable Member of this Common-wealth, in my little ſphear. And you will be ſo tender (I hope) of the Honour of publick Juſtice, as not to condemn ſuch a man unheard. Let not Chriſtian Gentlemen and Engliſhmen be leſs equal than Pagan Romans. You will in your pietyand wiſdom (I hope) give a check to the violence of my Accuſers, whoſe Religion is Revenge. You will in your Charity and Goodneſs endeavour (ſo far as lawfully you may) the preſervation of

Decem. 17. 1653.

Gods Servant and your poor Friend.

Cl. Barksdale.

To Maſter William Towers.
Decem. 17. 1653.

Dear Sir,

AS God hath vouchſafed us the honour to appear for ſome Great Truths in our Religion, ſo it ſeemeth by the Juſtices proceeding at *Winchcomb*, we ſhall have this ſecond honour, to ſuffer for them. *Te Deum laudamus*! I have ſent them a Letter this morn,

morn, to put them in mind of the manner of the *Romans* (I hope 'twill not seem to them Antichriſtian) not to condemn men unheard. I do not find in my ſelf any fear of them. Though I cannot ſay, as the good Archbiſhop *Whitgift* ſaid, He had two things to give him courage againſt his potent Adverſaries, *Orbitatem & Senectutem*, being in the midſt of my Courſe, and being call'd Father by ſix little motherleſs children: Yet I can ſay, *Si Deus nobiſcum*——and take courage enough from the Cauſe. If all the world oppoſe it, Truth is Truth, and God is Truth. To whoſe Grace and protection I commend us and all ours.

Your aſſured friend

and Brother,

C. B.

C. B. to D. W. December 19. 53.

SIR,

It is very true, that I told you, the first draught of that dispute was the work but of one day, while the memory of it was fresh: and the carefull observer is no other than the Respondent himself, who is not ashamed to own as well the penning as the publishing of it. My worthy friend, that stood in subsidiis, if he hath noted any considerable Defect in it, may do well, as I requested him, to send me his supplement. But the setting down an Enthymem for a Syllogism, and the omission of little matters on the by, I conceive is no very considerable want. Indeed there was a passage between him and the opponents concerning the Institution of the Sacrament, which, because I found not the particulars in my frail memory, I mentioned not. Now Sir, for the proceeding against me at Winchcomb the last week, which together with a very frivolous report about the D. of Y. (in the inquiry whereof, methinks, the Religion of an oath was made cheap.) was the business of the three Justices, I must tell you what good people say; That the new-saints there discover what they are by their pride

and

and ſpightfulneſs; That they procured warrant to fetch in ſome of my neighbours to ſwear againſt me for uſing the *Common-Prayer-Book*, who are not ſo Book-learned, that they can well tell when I uſe it, when not: That they, ſome of them, gave this falſe evidence, that on the Monday following the Diſpute, when Mr. *Helme* would not appear, I had drawn to the Church a company (you were one) of lewd perſons: That the Juſtices have not obliged me by any humanity or charity toward me, ſuffering me to be accuſed by ſuch fellowes in my abſence, that —But no more of this now. To conclude this ſcribble, I would have all know, that I do forgive my Adverſaries (whom I have aſſayed to cool by kind letters) and that I do not fear them: that I am well affected to all Goverment, by which I am protected, and that I am ſo well opiniond of the preſent Governor, that I believe he will at leaſt tolerate that Religion, wherein himſelf, as well as we, were once baptiz'd.

C. B. to Mr. G. December 24. 1653.

SIR,

I have ſeriouſly conſidered both what you *writ* to me, and what you *ſaid*. You *ſaid*, *Let Miniſters preach at home, and take heed*

of

of Meetings. It is good to be wise and wary; but to omit the means and opportunity of doing good in our Callings, even when there is some shew of perill to our selves, I doubt will argue rather a timorous deserting of our Cause, than a prudent wariness. Ministers must not only labour single and in their own Cures, but by a brotherly union, and mutual assistance, advance the work of their Master, and procure the peace of the Church. When so many unlearned new Teachers, both single and united, shew such zeal to make proselytes, shall we that have gone through the Schools to S. *Maryes*, and through university degrees have ascended the Pulpit, and by a regular mission are employed in our stations, shall we I say let the people lose the fruit of our long studyes, shall we be cold and heartless, and suffer our sheep to wander as if they had no shepheards? You *writ* to me, *That the Truth and our Cause did not suffer by my Dispute, but my friends fear is, that I in my estate may suffer in defense thereof*. Truly Sir, the grave judgment of you and other friends, that I have done some service to a good Cause, doth more comfort me, than your fears of my suffering can discourage me. I think upon the Psalmists words, *Trust in the Lord, and be doing good*. I think upon Gods words to *Paul*,

Be

Be not afraid, but ſpeak and hold not thy peace: For I am with thee. I think upon *Paul's* words to the *Philippians*, *To you it is given not only to believe, but to ſuffer.* I think upon Chriſt's words, *Bleſſed are ye when men ſhall revile you and perſecute you for my ſake: Rejoyce and be exceeding glad.* I need not comment upon theſe paſſages, nor apply them. Aſſure your ſelf, I am not afraid to ſuffer, as a Chriſtian. My eſtate indeed is but ſmall; if it were great, God forbid I ſhould love it more than a good Conſcience. I am in hope to keep both ſafe; and my hope is confirmed, ſince I hear, that at the very ſame time when our Adverſaries were contriving to undo me and other of my worthy brethren, The Generall was declared Protector, who is ſaid to be of a moderate, and a gentle, and obliging Diſpoſition. From whom I may juſtly expect ſuch a preſervation in my place, whereby I may be able (which is all my ambition) to breed up my five little Boys, to fear God, to love their Countrey, and to obey their ſuperiours.

C. B.

C. B. to D. C. December 30. 1653.

MOst dear Sir,

I have born a *loſs*, which will make all that can happen ſeem but light unto me (*ô paſſi graviora!*) ſo that the *danger* threatned moves me not; But truly upon the *late change* (which I hope will turn to the *general* good, as well as mine) I wrote to you, that the danger, I conceiv'd, was paſt; and therefore you might burn the letters. No wonder, that in the delivery of my papers to *that man*, you receiv'd vile words, and threats againſt me. Such are the Civilities of ſome *new-Saints*, that have found out a Religion of another temper from *His*, who as himſelf is meek and lowly, ſo requireth all his *Diſciples* to be like him; and that are of another *ſpirit* than that whoſe fruits are long ſuffering and gentleneſs. 'Twas well you ventur'd not to deliver the other letter, having had ſuch experience. Now Sir, to anſwer your Queſtion, *where I am proſecuteed*, I cannot: only I conjecture I ſhall hear of my Adverſaries at the Seſſions, and there I may hope well of the equity of the other Juſtices. As for the *Articles* againſt me, it ſeems by what I have learned concerning the examinations, they will

will run thus: 1. That he ſaid, he would *out Mr. Helme* (though I think, when they ſought falſe witneſs to prove this, they found none; And indeed I do not uſe to threaten.) 2. That he hath ſometime uſed ſome part of the *Common-Prayer-Book* (Themſelves uſe not the Directory: and the Order of the 12. of *November* laſt, protects all Aſſemblies but Popiſh.) 3. That he Chriſtned ſuch a mans child with the *ſign of the Croſs*: in token that he ſhould not be aſham'd to confeſs the faith of Chriſt crucified. 4. That he dined at an Ordinary with the *D.* of *Y.* at *Winchcomb*. [About whom there hath been much adoe among thoſe Juſtices, to the expoſing of themſelves and their office to much contempt among the people.] *Terrible Articles!* But, ſince the *Diſſolution*, the Men are not terrible: ſo that I may baniſh them from my ſtudies, and return unto my *Grotius*; or, rather uſe the words of the Pſalmiſt, *Return unto thy reſt, O my Soul, for the Lord hath been good to thee. The Lord taketh my part againſt my adverſaries. The Lord ſhall give his people the bleſſing of Peace.* To his gracious providence I commend you and all yours.

Testimonies pertinent to severall passages in the Letters and Dispute, Collected out of Protestant Divines as they came to hand, to be referred to their proper places by the diligent Reader.

Dr. HAMMOND

Of Binding and Loosing, Pag. 74.

THey quite deform the primitime Institution (*of Excommunication*) who deny the Sacrament to Whole Congregations at once, without any charge laid to all or any part of them (save only that they are a mixt Congregation, wherein there are some evill men, which yet is not legally proved neither:) and they also who deny it to particular men sufficiently catechised, without any publick cognizance of their crime, or proceſs of admonition first and second; or that de-

signe

ſigne that excluſion to any other end, than *ut peccantes reſipiſcant*, the reducing ſinners to repentance: and therefore no ſmall petty trifle is a ſufficient matter for this, but contumacious continuing in ſome ſcandalous ſin after admonitions: from which when they return again by a ſincere approved repentance, they are to be abſolved.

In his Preface.

THat the power of Binding and Looſing may be reſtored to its full vigour in this Church againe, and, wherever ſobriety ſhall adviſe, by addition of penitentiall Canons be reformed or regulated; and being put into the primitive chanell, may there be permitted to ſhew forth it ſelf in the native purity and brightneſs; and ſo being ordered according to Gods deſignation, obtain Gods bleſſing to make it effectuall to its end, ſhall be the prayer of him who profeſſes to love and admire the beauty of this fabrick [of the Church of *England*] even when it lyes polluted in its blood, and to wiſh no greater bleſſing to its deareſt friends, or, for whom he daily prayes, moſt implacable enemies, than that the ſcales may fall off from all our eyes,

that we may see and value what is so illustri-ously conspicuous and estimable in it self, &c. If the abuses and excesses and mistakes were removed, and that which is Christian and Apostolicall revived and restored in pru-dence and sobriety, might yet again shew the world the use of that Prelacy, which is now so zealously contemned, and recover at once the order, and the estimation of it; set more Saints on their knees, in petitions for the reducing and restoring, than ever employed their hands toward the suppressing of it.

D. Jer. Taylor *in the Dedicatory before his Winter-Sermons. Of* preaching.

WHo would have in him so little of a man as not to be greedy of the Word of God, and of holy Ordinances, even therefore because they are so hard to have? And this evill, although it can have no excuse, yet it hath a great and a certain cause. For the Word of God still creates new Appetites, as it satisfies the old; and enlarges the capacity as it fills the first propensities of the Spirit. For all spirituall blessings are seeds of Im-mortality, and of infinite felicitie; they swell up to the comprehensions of Eternity, and the desires of the soul can never be wea-ried

ried, but when they are decayed: as the ſtomack will be craving every day, unleſs it be ſick and abuſed. But every mans experience tels him now, that becauſe men have not Preaching, they leſs deſire it: their long faſting makes them not to love their meat: and ſo we have cauſe to fear, the people will fall to an Atrophy, then to a loathing of holy food, and then Gods anger will follow the method of our ſin, and ſend a famine of the word and Sacraments. *Paulo poſt.* And by the ſame inſtrument [*Preaching*] God reſtored the beauty of the Church, when it was neceſſary ſhe ſhould be reformed: it was the aſſiduous and learned Preaching of thoſe whom God choſe for his Miniſters in that work, that wrought the Advantages, and perſwaded thoſe Truths, which are the *enamel* and beauty of our Churches. And becauſe by the ſame means all things are preſerved, by which they are produc'd, it cannot but be certain, that the preſent State of the Church requires a greater care and prudence in this Miniſtry than ever: eſpecially, ſince by Preaching ſome endeavour to ſupplant Preaching, and by intercepting the fruits of the flocks, to diſhearten the ſhepheards from their Attendances.

The ſame Author. Of Zeal, p. 185.

ANy zeal is proper for Religion, but the zeal of the Sword, and the zeal of anger; this is πικρὸς ζῆλος, the bitterneſs of zeal; and it is a certain temptation to every man againſt his duty: for if the Sword turns Preacher and dictates Propoſitions by Empire inſtead of Arguments, and engraves them in mens hearts with a Ponyard, that it ſhall be death to believe what I innocently and ignorantly am perſwaded of, it muſt needs be unſafe to *try the Spirits*, to *try all things*, to make enquiry. And yet without this liberty, no man can juſtify himſelf before God or man, nor confidently ſay, that his Religion is beſt: ſince he cannot without a final danger make himſelf able to give a right ſentence, and to follow that which he finds to be the beſt. This may ruin Souls by making Hypocrits, or careleſs and complyant againſt conſcience or without it; but it doth not ſave Souls, though peradventure it ſhould force them to a good opinion. This is inordination of zeal. For Chriſt by reproving St. *Peter* drawing his Sword, even in the cauſe of Chriſt, for his ſacred and yet

injur'd perſon, διδάσκει μὴ χρῆσθαι μαχαίρᾳ κἂν ὑπὲρ θεοῦ ἢ ὑπὲρ ἑαυτοῦ τις ἀδικῆται (ſaith *Theophilact*) teaches us not to uſe the Sword, though in the cauſe of God, or for God himſelf: becauſe he will ſecure his own intereſt: only let him be ſerved as himſelf is pleaſed to command: and it is like *Moſes* paſſion, it throws the Tables of the Law out of our hands, and breaks them in pieces out of indignation to ſee them broken. This is the zeal that is now in faſhion, and hath almoſt ſpoiled Religion: Men like the zealots of the Jews cry up their Sect, and in it their Intereſt, they affect Diſciples and fight againſt the Opponents: And we ſhall find in Scripture, that when the Apoſtles began to Preach the meekneſs of the Chriſtian inſtitution, ſalvation, and promiſes, charity and humility, there was a zeal ſet up againſt them. The Apoſtles were zealous for the Goſpel: The Jews were zealous for the Law. And ſee what different effect theſe two zeals did produce. The zeal of the Law came to this, They ſtirred up the City, they made tumults, they ſent parties of Souldiers to ſilence and to impriſon the Preachers, *&c.* But the zeal of the Apoſtles was this, They Preached publickly and privatly, they prayed for all men, they wept to God for the

hardneſs of mens hearts, they became all things to all men, *&c.* They endured every man and wronged no man, They would *do* any good thing and *ſuffer* any evill, if they had but hopes to prevail upon a Soul: They perſwaded men meekly, they entreated them humbly, they convinced them powerfully, they watched for their good, but medled not with their intereſt, *&c.*

L. Hatton *in the Preface to his Pſalter.*
Of Union.

HE that is ready to joyn with all the ſocieties of Chriſtians in the world, in thoſe things which are certainly true, juſt and pious, gives great probation that he hath at leaſt *animum Catholicum*, no Schiſmatical Soul, becauſe he would actually communicate with all Chriſtendome; if *bona fides in falſo articulo*, ſincere perſwaſion (be it true or falſe) did not diſoblige him; ſince he clearly diſtinguiſhes perſons from things, and in all good things communicates with perſons bad enough in others. This is the Communion of Charity: and when the Communion of belief is interrupted by miſperſwaſion on one ſide, and too much con-

fidence

fidence and want of Charity on the other, the erring party hath humane infirmity to excuſe him, but the uncharitable nothing at all. This therefore is the beſt and ſureſt way, becauſe we are all apt to be deceived, to be ſincere in our diſquiſitions, modeſt in our determinations, charitable in our cenſures, and apt to communicate in things of evident truth and confeſſed holineſs. Since all Chriſtians of any publick confeſſion and Government, that is, all particular and national Churches, agree in the matter of prayers, and the great object, God in the myſtery of the Trinity, if the Church of *Rome* would make her Addreſſes to God only through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord, and leave the Saints in the Calendar, without drawing them into her Offices (which they might do without any prejudice to the ſutes they ask, unleſs Chriſt's interceſſion without their conjuncture were imperfect) that we might all once pray together, we might hope for the bleſſings of Peace and Charity to be upon us all.

Hieronymus

Hieronymus Zanchius, in Confeſs. Cap. 24. 19. *De Eccleſia.*

NOn enim ab Eccleſia Romana ſimpliciter & in omnibus defecimus: ſed in illis duntaxat rebus, in quibus ipſa defecit ab Apoſtolica, atque adeo à ſeipſa, veteri & pura Eccleſia: neque alio diſceſſimus animo, quàm ut, ſi correcta ad priorem Eccleſiæ formam redeat, nos quoque ad illam revertamur, & communionem cum illa, in ſuis porrò cœtibus habeamus. Quod ut tandem fiat, toto animo Dominum Jeſum precamur. Quid enim pio cuique optatius, quam ut ubi per Baptiſmum renati ſumus, ibi etiam in finem uſque vivamus, modo in Domino. Ego H. Z. *cum totâ meâ familiâ teſtatum hoc volo toti Eccleſiæ Chriſti in omnem æternitatem.*

" *Huic pii viri ſententiæ libenter ſub-*
" *ſcribit*

C. B.

Idem in obſervat. ad Cap. 5.

ATque hac de patrum autoritate: à quibus niſi manifeſtiſſimis rationibus cogar, me pro mea tenera conſcientia, vel in dogmatibus,

tibus, vel etiam in ſcripturarum interpretationibus, præſertim ubi plerique omnes conſentiunt, deflectere non audere, toti Eccleſiæ Chriſti ingenuè fateor. Et poſtea. *Hoc ego ingenuè denuò profiteor, talem eſſe meam conſcientiam, ut à veterum patrum, ſive dogmatibus, ſive ſcripturarum interpretationibus, non facile, niſi vel manifeſtis ſacrarum literarum teſtimoniis, vel neceſſariis conſequentiis, apertiſque demonſtrationibus convictus atque coactus, diſcedere queam. Sic enim acquieſcit mea conſcientia: & in hac mentis quiete cupio etiam mori.*

Idem ad Cap. 25.

QUid? quòd in Eccleſiis etiam Proteſtantium, non deſunt reipſa Epiſcopi, & Archiepiſcopi: quos mutatis bonis Græcis nominibus in malè Latina, vocant ſuperintendentes, & generales ſuperintendentes? Sed ubi etiam neque illa vetera bona Græca, neque hæc nova malè Latina nomina obtinent, ibi tamen ſolent eſſe aliquot primarii, penes quos fere tota eſt autoritas. De nominibus ergo fuerit controverſia: verùm cum de rebus convenit, quid de nominibus altercamur?

Idem

Idem in fine.

PRecor omnes Chriſtianos per Dominum Jeſum, ut poſitis vanis privatorum hominum ſomniis, poſitis etiam propriis carnis affectibus, odiis, inimicitiis; amplexi verò certum ac ſalutarem veteris Eccleſiæ doctrinam, Chriſtianamque dilectionem; coeamus omnes in unam fidem, ſanctamque amicitiam: ſicut nobis quoque omnibus unus eſt Deus, unus Mediator, unum Baptiſma, una ſpes vocationis noſtræ: ad gloriam nominis Dei, Eccleſiæ ædificationem, ſalutemque animorum noſtrorum. Citius enim quam putamus, ſiſtemur ante tribunal Chriſti, ut referat unuſquiſque prout ſe geſſit in corpore, & in hac vita, quando poſt hanc vitam nulla ſpes veniæ, nullus reſipiſcentiæ locus eſt.

Hooker *in his Preface. Sect.* 4.

A Very ſtrange thing ſure it were, that ſuch a Diſcipline as ye ſpeak of, ſhould be taught by Chriſt and his Apoſtles in the word of God, and no Church ever have found it out, nor received it till this preſent time: contrariwiſe, the Government againſt

againſt which ye bend your ſelves, be obſerved every where throughout all generations and ages of the Chriſtian world, no Church ever perceiving the word of God to be againſt it. We require you to find out but one Church upon the face of the whole earth, that hath been ordered by your Diſcipline, or hath not been orderd by ours, that is to ſay, by Epiſcopal regiment, ſithence the time that the bleſſed Apoſtles were here converſant.

The ſame. Sect. 6.

AS for the Orders which are eſtabliſhed, ſith equity and reaſon, the Law of Nature, God and man, do all favour that which is in being, till orderly judgement of deciſion be given againſt it; it is but juſtice to exact of you, and perverſeneſs in you it ſhould be to deny thereunto your willing obedience. Not that I judge it a thing allowable for men to obſerve thoſe Laws, which in their hearts they are ſtedfaſtly perſwaded to be againſt the Law of God; but your perſwaſion in this caſe ye are all bound for the time to ſuſpend; and in otherwiſe doing, ye offend againſt God by troubling his Church

Church without any juſt or neceſſary cauſe.

The ſame. Sect. 8.

AGain it may juſtly be feared, whether our Engliſh Nobility, when the matter came in tryal, would contentedly ſuffer themſelves to be alwaies at the call, and to ſtand to the ſentence of a number of mean perſons aſſiſted with the preſence of their poor teacher, a man (as ſometimes it hapneth) though better able to ſpeak, yet little or no whit apter to judge than the reſt. From whom, be their dealings never ſo abſurd (unleſs it be by way of complaint to a Synod) no appeal may be made unto any one of higher power: in as much as the order of your Diſcipline admitteth no ſtanding inequality of Courts, no Spiritual Judge to have any ordinary Superior on earth, but as many Supremacies, as there are Pariſhes and ſeveral Congregations. Neither is it altogether without cauſe that ſo many do fear the overthrow of all learning, as a threatned ſequel of this your intended Diſcipline. For if the worlds preſervation depend upon the multitude of the wiſe; and of that ſort the

the number hereafter be not likely to wax over great, when (that wherewith the Son of *Syrach* profeſſeth himſelf at the heart grieved) men of underſtanding are already ſo little ſet by: how ſhould their minds, whom the love of ſo precious a Jewel filleth with ſecret jealouſy, even in regard of the leaſt things which may any way hinder the flouriſhing eſtate thereof, chooſe but miſdoubt, leſt this Diſcipline, which alwaies you match with Divine Doctrine, as her natural and true Sifter, be found unto all kinds of knowledge a Stepmother; ſeeing that the greateſt worldly hopes, which are propoſed unto the chiefeſt kind of learning, yee ſeek utterly to extirpate as weeds: and have grounded your platform on ſuch Propoſitions, as do after a ſort undermine thoſe moſt renowned habitations, where through the goodneſs of Almighty God all commendable Arts and Sciences are with exceeding great induſtry hitherto (and ſo may they for ever continue) ſtudied, proceeded in, and profeſt. To charge you as purpoſely bent to the overthrow of that wherein many of you have attained no ſmall perfection, were injurious. Only therefore I wiſh that your ſelves did well conſider how oppoſite certain your poſitions are, *&c.*

Maſter

Maſter Edward Leigh, *a dilligent Collector, in his Body of Divinity* P. 454, *&c.*

THe Socinians ſay, *Cum adhuc nova, &c.* The Apoſtles had a call when the Goſpel was newly publiſhed: there needs not a Miniſtry now that the Goſpel is generally taught, and it is promiſed we ſhall be all taught of God. If we ſhould look for a Miniſtry, where ſhall we find it? Our Miniſtets were ordained by Biſhops, they by the Pope: Therefore their Calling is Anti-Chriſtian. *But*, That there is ſuch an Inſtitution of Chriſt, and this to continue till the worlds end, may be thus proved. Firſt, there are ſome to whom the word of reconciliation is committed, and not to others. 1 *Cor.* 5. 18. *Rom.* 10. 15. there is a peculiar miſſion: Men cannot Preach as the Embaſſadors of Chriſt, unleſs ſent, *Jo.* 20. 21. *Gal.* 1. 1. Secondly, becauſe a ſpecial authority is committed to ſuch by vertue of their office, they have the Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. *Iſ.* 22. 22. *Mat.* 16. 19. The Browniſts ſay, our Miniſters are not rightly called into their offices, becauſe we received it from *Rome. Anſ.* Not every thing ordained by Anti-Chriſt

christ is forthwith to me rejected, but only that which he doth, *qua Antichristus*, as he is Antichrist. But Bishops were before ever Antichrist appeared in the world.—*Brown* the father of the *Brownists* was the first of note that did separate himself from the Church of *England*, and said, that we had no Church; he meant a true Church; But after he went into *France*, and being at *Geneva*, he saw the Sabbath much prophaned, and the wafer-cake given in the Sacrament instead of bread; whereupon he began to think better of the Church of *England*, and returning home he became Pastor of a Church in *Northhampton-shire*, called *Achurch*. The Church of *Rome* was a true Church; the Reformed Churches separated from it becoming a false Church. Though Ministers were ordained in the most corrupt estate of the Church of *Rome*, yet if they forsake the corruptions of the Church of *Rome* they are true Ministers, as the Church of *Rome* it self if it would cast off its Corruptions, should be a true Church.

There is a double *Calling* necessary to a dispensor of the Mysteries of salvation, *Inward* and *Outward*. The Inward enableth men, the Outward authorizeth them to discharge their sacred function. Where there are Gifts, if God encline the heart of the

party to enter into the Miniſtry, there is an inward Calling: Yet this alone ſufficeth not without an outward Calling, either *Ordinary*, or *Extraordinary*. We are not now to expect extraordinary callings ſince Miracles are ceaſed. The Ordinary calling is by the Impoſition of the hands of the Presbytery, *Jer.* 14. 14. & 27. 15. *Rom.* 10. 5. No other Ordination was heard of for fifteen hundred years, or at leſt approved of. *Dr. Feathy's diſtinction of Clergy and Laity.*

In the Reformed Churches of *France* and *Geneva*, the people give no voice in the Election of Miniſters, but are only permitted, if they have any cauſes of diſlike or exception, to make them known to the paſtors & guides of the Church, and the power of judging ſuch exceptions reſteth wholly in them. When one *Morelius* a phantaſticall companion ſought to bring the Elections of Biſhops and Miniſters to be popular, and ſwayed by the moſt voices of the people, he was condemned by all the Synods in *France*, as *Beza* ſheweth, *Epiſt.* 83.

In Scripture we find Election and Ordination frequently diſtinguiſhed, not only as diſtinct acts, but oft-times in diſtinct hands; *Deut.* 1. 13. The people chuſe them who ſhall be Rulers, but *Moſes* makes them Rulers.

ers, *Act.* 6. 3. The people chuſe, the Apoſtles appoint the Deacons. The chuſing of a perſon to an office, is not the authorizing of the perſon elected, but the deſignation of the perſon to be authorized. *See Mr. Gilleſp. Miſcell.* c. 4.

The *Socinians* acknowledge it is fit for Order and Decency to retain Ordination in the Church. Peradventure many of the Sectaries of this time will hardly acknowledge thus much.——Some think, that the Ceremony of laying on of hands may be omitted; ſometimes we muſt be tyed to example in the beſt meaſure, though not preſcribed, and yet men preſume to diſpenſe in a circumſtance prescribed, *Tit.* 1. 5. *Timothy* was ordained by laying on of hands, and enjoyned to lay hands on others in their Ordination, 1 *Tim.* 5. 22. Thus were the Deacons ordained, *Act.* 6. 6. and thus were *Paul* and *Barnabas* ſet apart for the execution of their calling, *Act.* 13. 3.

Auguſtin and *Chryſoſtom* preached every day in the week and year, (at leaſt once or twice without fail:) *Ye heard yeſterday, yee ſhall hear to morrow*, is common in their Treatises and Homilies. Mr. *Bull's* trial of *Separ.* p. 81. The Papiſts by way of ſcoff called the Evangelical Miniſters *prædicantici*. Wher-

as *Paul* judged preaching his chief Office and would not baptize leſt it ſhould be a impediment. *Bellarmine* and the Counceil *Trent* ſtyle preaching *præcipuum Epiſcopi ficium.*

The Queſtion (ſaith Mr. *Mede* on Act. 3, 4, 5.) ſhould not be, Whether Tithes a due to the Miniſters of the Goſpel, meanin as a duty of the people unto them, but rathe Whether they be not due to God: for ſo the ſtyle of the Scripture, *All the Tithes mine*; Theſe I give to *Levi*, and not yo There are many other uſes for the emplo ment of *Bona ſacra*, if they be more than competent for them and theirs.

That men, though gifted without be called to the Miniſtry, and by Ordination ſet part for it, ſhould take upon them the office ordinary exerciſe of preaching, ſeems repu nant to thoſe Scriptures, *Rom.* 10. 15. *H* 5. 4. 1 *Tim.* 5. 22. Chriſt therefore fr quently urgeth this, That he was ſent fro his Father. Puniſhments have been inflicted thoſe that have medled beyond their call, *Uzziah. Apage vaſanam illam propheta libertatem, imo licentiam blaſphemandi: ut ceat maleferiato cuiq; tyroni prodigioſiſſi cerebri ſui phantaſmata in apricum producer & populo commendare & prælo. Concio* Ha

Halli ad Syn. nat. Dord. Such as want Authority from the Church, 1. are none of Christs Officers, *Epheſ.* 4. 11. 2. They are expreſly forbidden it, *Jer.* 23. 21. 3. The bleſſing on the Word is promiſed only to ſent Teachers, *Rom.* 10. 15. *Mr. Owen's duty of Paſtors and people diſtinguiſhed, p.* 46, 47. *Inprimis diſplicet mihi illa quam tuentur libertas prophetandi, certiſſima pernicies religionis niſi certis finibus acriter coerceatur.* Caſaub. epiſt. 320.

The ſame Collector, pag. 683, 684.

Obj. WE are commanded not to eat with a Brother if he be ſo and ſo. *Anſ.* It ſignifieth to have familiar civill ſociety with them, in inviting them or feaſting them. But, if one may not have familiar civil converſation with ſuch, much leſs may he eat with them at the Sacrament. It follows not, for in withdrawing our ſelves from them we puniſh them, and ſhew our diſlike of them: but in withdrawing our ſelves from the Sacrament, becauſe of them, we puniſh our ſelves.—— *Mr. Downame on* 1 *Cor.* 11. 28. *ſaith,* None ought to refrain coming to the Lords Table, becauſe they ſee ſcandalous ſinners & unworthy gueſts admitted. For, 1. The Apoſtle there doth not enjoyn us to examin others, but

out selves. 2. Because the Apostles, (yea even Christ himself) did joyn with those Assemblies in the service of God, and particularly in the use of the Sacraments, which were full of corruptions, both in respect of doctrine and manners, viz. This Church of *Corinth* itself.) 3. Because one mans sin cannot defile another, nor make the seals of the Covenant uneffectuall to him who cometh in faith and repentance, and even hateth that sin which he seeth committed: especially when he hath no power committed unto him by God and the Church, of repelling the wicked from this holy Communion. 4. Because the punishment denounced against unworthy Receivers is appropriated to them who thus offend, and reacheth not to the innocent because they are in their company. *Zanchy* saith, *Non aut ob talem abusum Ecclesia desinit esse Ecclesia Christi, aut pii impiorum in sacris Communione possunt contaminari.* Beza de Presbyt. p. 28. *Etiamsi suis oculis Minister quempiam viderit aliquid agentem, quod cœna exclusionem mereatur, jure tamen, nec debeat nec possit, nisi vocatum, convictum legitimè, denique secundum constitutum in Ecclesia ordinem damnatum à mensa Domini cum auctoritate prohibere.*

Object. We are commanded to separate

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our ſelves from the wicked, and to come out from amongſt them, 2 *Cor.* 6. 17. *Anſ.* We muſt indeed come out from amongſt thoſe that do ſerve falſe Gods, and ſeparate our ſelves from the familiar ſociety of wicked perſons; but other ſeparation was never practiſed by any Prophet or Apoſtle, or ever meant. Immediatly there it follows, *Touch not the unclean thing*: that is, Do not joyn with others in their pollutions. *Epheſ.* 5. 6, 7, 11. *p.* 682.

This Sacrament (ſaith *Mr. Burroughs on Hoſ.* 5. 3.) is not defiled to the right receivers of it, meerly becauſe wicked men are preſent there, but becauſe the Congregation neglects their duty of caſting out the wicked from thence, whence they diſcover themſelves—Particular perſons and Communicants come to be defiled in this, if they neglect the duty that belongs to them as Chriſtians, *Matth.* 18. 15, 16. If thou haſt done thy duty to all ſcandalous perſons in the Congregation, then the ſin be upon the Church, thou maiſt receive the Sacrament with comfort, though wicked men be admitted there.

[p. 481.] Dr. *Ames* ſaith, *Falſum eſt internas virtutes à nobis requiri, ut aliquis ſit in Eccleſia quoad viſibilem ejus ſtatum. Bellarm.*

larm. enerv. Tom. 2. l. 2. c. 1. ſ. 5. The Apoſtles at the firſt gathering of the Church of the new Teſtament never required any more than the profeſſion of the faith of Chriſt in fundamentals, and that they were willing for the time to come to walk in Goſpell rules. *John Baptiſt* received Publicans and ſinners, Soldiers, Scribes, Phariſees, when they confeſſed their ſins, and deſired to be admitted into the faith of him whom *John* preached. See *Act.* 2. 41, 47. *Vide Calvin. ad Matt.* 3. Many a one that may have real grace, yet out of baſhfulneſs, and becauſe he hath but weak parts, may not be able to evidence it to others: and others, who have greater gifts, may carry it away when they are not inwardly wrought upon. I ſuppoſe therefore, thoſe are to be received into Church-Communion which profeſs the faith of Chriſt, and ſubject to the rules of the Goſpell, if they be free from damnable errors and ſcandalous converſation.

Mr. Martial on *Rom.* 12. 4, 5. I am verily perſwaded, that were the union and Communion of the people of God rightly known, there is no Saint in any part of the world, but where ever he comes, might demand upon the profeſſion of his faith, and his voluntary ſubjection to the Goſpell, his right in the Ordinances, hear the Word with them, pray with

with them, receive the Sacraments with them.

Mr. Baxter in the Dedicatory of his Reſt.

YOu know I never conformed to the uſe of myſtical Symbolical *Rites* my ſelf (but only to the determination of Circumſtantials neceſſary *in genere*) and yet I ever loved a godly *peaceable Conformiſt*, better than a *turbulent Non-conformiſt*. I yet differ from many in ſeverall Doctrins of greater moment than Baptiſm, &c. And yet if I ſhould zealouſly preſs my judgment on others, and ſeek to make a party for it, and diſturb the *peace of the Church*, and *ſeparate* from my Brethren, I ſhould fear leſt I ſhould prove a firebrand in hell, for being a firebrand in the Church. *Paulo poſt.* Make conſcience of the great duty of *reproving* and exhorting thoſe about you: Make not your ſouls guilty of the oaths, ignorance and unworthineſs of others by your ſilence. *Admoniſh* them lovingly and modeſtly; but be ſure you do it, and that ſeriouſly. This is the firſt ſtep in *Diſcipline.* Expect not that your Miniſter ſhould put any from the *Sacrament*, whom you have not thus admoniſhed once and again.—Puniſh not before due proceſs.

Dr.

Dr. Ham. Pract. Catech. l. 6. ſ. 3.
Of preparation for the Sacrament.

THat every man is infinitely concernd to have his ſoul always poſſeſt with every part of that preparation. That he careleſs *ſcitancy*, & fatal *ſtupidity* of the world, in never ſo much as conſidering whether they have any of them or no, is a moſt prodigious thing. That the time of preparing our ſelves for the Sacrament (which ought to be *frequent*, but how frequent is not defined in Scripture, but left to the judgment of the Church) is a very fit time for that *ſelf examination*. That till that be done, and all and each of thoſe graces [*Repentance*, *faith*, *&c.*] found ſincere in our hearts, we ought not to come to that holy Sacrament: which yet will not *excuſe* any for not coming, becauſe he is not prepar'd, but rather *aggravate* the ſin upon him, that rather than thus fit himſelf he will part with ſo great a treaſure.

The ſame Authour, Of Idolatry, ſ. 70.

FOr the *ſign of the Croſs*, uſed by our Church in Baptiſm, which hath been by ſome cryed down under the title of Idolatry,

two

two things it will not be amiſs briefly to have obſerved; 1. That the ſame ground of zeal or paſſion that hath incited ſome men lately to charge it of a breach of the ſecond Commandement, hath long ſince moved one [*Parker on the Croſs*] of the ſame ſpirit, to accuſe it as a ſin againſt the other nine, and to entitle his ſeverall Chapters of the ſwearing, Sabbath-breaking, murder, adultery, ſtealing, falſ-witneſs, and at the laſt of the concupiſcence of the Croſs, as well as the Idolatry of it, the reaſons being much alike for the whole charge. 2. That the ſigning with the ſign of the Croſs in that Sacrament, is ſomewhat diſtant from that which the Papiſts uſe, and an act of departure from them, in King *Edwards* ſecond Liturgy, more than had been in the firſt Reformation. The former cuſtome was to croſs the Child at the Church dore, when it was brought to Baptiſm, but this of ours as a mark of initiation or reception into Chriſts flock, immediately following Baptiſm, and a kind of *teſſera*, or military ſign that the perſon thus conſigned into Chriſt's *Militia* ſhall for ever after think himſelf obliged *manfully to fight*, *&c.* A change made meerly out of compliance with them who were jealous of too great an inclination to *Popery*, and yet now charged with the guilt

of

of that, which it was on purpoſe deſigned to decline.

The ſame Author, Of fraternall Admonition, pag. 11.

THis of Correption (ſaith *Gerſon*) is by Chriſt's precept become our duty, whenſoever theſe 6. *Conditions* do concur. 1. That I have a *certain knowledge* of the brothers ſin, a ſuſpicion being not ground ſufficient for ſo doing. 2. That I uſe all *mildneſs* or manſuetude in admoniſhing, the angry paſſionate correption being apt rather to provoke than to amend. 3. If on conſideration I diſcern not that ſome other is *fitter* for that performance than my ſelf; *i. e.* either more familiar with him, or els his ſuperiour, that may have ſome authority over him (as for a third conſideration, whether ſome body els be not more *pious*, or better qualified, I ſhall not put that into the ſcheme, leſt the moſt pious men being alſo the moſt humble, ſhould by that *κρίνειν*, judge themſelves ſuperſeded from thar duty:) Yet this alſo with this limitation, that if all other do appear to neglect that performance, then it muſt devolve to me again, and as far as concerns that condition, become my duty, if all the other conditions

conditions do concur with it. 4. If I have any probable ground of *hope* that he will be reformd or betterd by my Correption: whereas on the other ſide, if there be no ſuch hope, but rather that he will he provoked, inflamed, and grow worſe, I am not then bound to contribute thus to his deeper condemnation. 5. That the matter of the ſin be of ſome *weight*: and again, that it were done upon advice and deliberation, not out of *ſurreption*, ſudden motion, or imperfect conſent. And laſtly, if there be not hope of ſpringing ſome happier *opportunity* for this performance at ſome other time, which may make it prudent and charitable to defer it till then. The concurrence of theſe conditions is that which makes the *exerciſe* of this duty *neceſſary*, and neglect a ſin: and the concurrence of at leaſt ſo many of them, as may give me hope of the deſigned ſucceſs (that unto which the firſt mention of it by Chriſt was ordered, *to ſave that which was loſt:*) the reforming any lapſt treſpaſſer, lays it upon me as a moſt excellent work of Chriſtian mercy: the uſefulneſs of which to my poor brother, is able to commend it to every Chriſtians practice, though there were no obligation, or precept lying on him. *Read the whole Treatiſe.*

The

The same Author in his preface to, Of binding and loosing.

THe Lord grant us unprejudicate honest hearts to judge uprightly, and every one of us that meekness and quietness of spirit, to think some others may possibly discern betwixt good and evill, as well as our selves; and when that prayer is once heard, I shall then suppose that φθόνος that hath given *Themistocles* the πρωτεῖα, or preheminence over his fellowes in the judgment of all posterity (*viz.* that every man named him next after himself) will certainly end the present controversy. A *moderate Episcopacy*, with a standing assistant Presbytery (and every of these assigned his full task and province of employment also) being the only fourth, which as it will certainly satisfy the desires of those whose pretensions are regular and moderate; so will it appear to be that which all other parties can best tolerate; and which next himself, both *Presbyterian*, and *Independent*, and *Erastian* will make no question to chuse and prefer before any of the other pretenders.—— The severall excellencies of the other three, by which they set themselves out amiable and desirable to admirers or followers (the *Presbyterians*

byterians ſharpneſs and ſeverity againſt all ignorance and ſin, the *Independents* zeal againſt mixt Congregations, and the *Eraſtians* care that the civil power may not be intrencht on, and that they that might receive benefit by the word and Sacraments, ſhould by no means be interdicted the uſe of them) may all and each of them be found, at leaſt as in mixture, refracted and compounded in this fourth.

The ſame Author in his Conſiderations concerning Church-govern-ment. p. 11.

THe reſtoring *Epiſcopacy* to its due burthen as well as reputation, were a care worthy of *Reformers*: and it is ſo far from my deſire that any ſuch care ſhould be ſpared, that it is now my publick ſolemn *Petition* both to God and Man, that the power of the *Keys*, and the exerciſe of that power, the due uſe of *Confirmation*, and previous to that, *Examination* and tryall of youth; a ſtrict ſearch into the manners and tempers and ſufficiencies of thoſe that are to be admitted into *Holy Orders*, and to be licentiate for publick Preachers; the *Viſitation* of each Pariſh in each Dioceſe, and the exerciſe of Church-*Diſcipline* upon all offenders; together with painfull

painful, mature and ſober *Preaching* and *Catechizing*; ſtudies of all kinds, and parts of Theological *learning*, Languages, Controverſies, Writings of the Schools and Caſuiſts, *&c.* be ſo far taken into conſideration by our Law-makers, and ſo far conſidered in the collating of *Church-preferments* and Dignities: ſo much of duty required of Clergy-men, and ſo little left arbitrary or at large, that every Church-preferment in this Kingdom may have ſuch a due *burthen* annexed to it, that no ignorant perſon ſhould be *able*, no lazy or luxurious perſon *willing* or forward to undergo it. And if this might be thus deſigned, I ſhould then reſolve, that the ſetling and continuing of this Government would prove the common Intereſt of *All*, and only the burthen of thoſe few that have thoſe painful offices aſſigned to them? *&c.*

D. Davenant Determin. 42. p. 189.

SIt igitur hoc fixum *& ſtabilitum, inter multos Presbyteros, qui in una aliqua Civitate Verbum & Sacramenta adminiſtrabant, fuiſſe unum* ab ipſis Apoſtolis *præpoſitum cæteris, &* ſingulari *quadam dignitate*

ac

ac poteſtate munitum. Hiſce Epiſcopis Apoſtolorum autoritate ſic ſtabilitis, Conſtat *perpetua ſerie* Succeſſores *fuiſſe ſubrogatos in iiſdem Civitatibus: novos etiam ad idem exemplar (quando Eccleſia ſic viſum fuit) inaliis Civitatibus Conſtitutos.*

Jo. Calvinus Protectori Angliæ.

Quod ad formulam precum *&* rituum *Eccleſiaſticorum, valde probo, ut* certa *illa extet, à qua paſtoribus diſcedere in functione ſua* non liceat: *tam ut conſulatur quorundam ſimplicitati & imperitiæ, quam ut certius ita conſtet omnium inter ſe Eccleſiarum* conſenſus: *poſtremo etiam ut obviam eatur deſultoriæ quorundam* levitati, *qui novationes quaſdam affectant, uti eo pertinere Catechiſmum ipſum ante oſtendi. Sic igitur ſtatum eſſe* Catechiſmum *oportet, ſtatam* Sacramentorum *adminiſtrationem, publicam item* precum formulam.

Doctor Gauden *to the Reader of his Apology.*

BUt if the *Sins* of this Nation, and the decrees of Divine *Juſtice*, do indeed haſten an utter overthrow here of the *Reformed Miniſtry*, and the *Reformed Religion*; If Miniſters of the *antient Ordination*, lawful heirs of the true *Apoſtolical Succeſſion*, are therefore accounted as Sheep for the ſlaughter, becauſe they are better fed, and better bred, than others of leaner Souls, and meaner Spirits; If they are therefore to the men of this world, as a ſavour of death unto death, becauſe they hold forth the word of Truth and Life, to the juſt reproach of a lying, dying, and ſelf-deſtroying Generation; If we muſt at laſt periſh and fall, with our whole function and Fraternity, after all our Studies, charges, labours and ſufferings: yet it is fit ſome of us (and the more the better, leſt our *ſilence may argue guilt*) give the world both at preſent, and in after Ages ſome Account, *Why and How*, in ſo learned, valiant wiſe and Religious a Nation as this of *England* hath been, *&c.*

Of

Of the Church of England.

I Cannot but take notice of the ſtyle that ſome Romaniſts have in theſe laſt years choſen to make uſe of, calling us, *The late Church of* England: The interpretation whereof is to my underſtanding this; that the Calamities under which now we ſuffer have made us ceaſe to be a Church.—— But, *Bleſſed be God*, the Church of *England* is not inviſible: It is ſtill preſerved in *Biſhops and Presbyters* rightly Ordained, and multitudes rightly Baptized, none of which have fallen off from their profeſſion. And the only thing imaginable to be objected in this point, being this, that the *Schiſm* hath ſo far been extended by the *force*, that many, if not moſt *Churches parochial* are filled by thoſe who have ſet up a *new*, or a *no-form* of worſhip, and ſo that many men cannot any other wiſe than in *private Families* ſerve God, after the Church-way; that ſure will be of little weight, when the *Romaniſts* are remembred to be the objectors, who cannot but know, that this is the only way that they have had of ſerving God in this kingdom theſe many years; and that the night meetings of the *Primitive Chriſtians* in Dens

and Caves, are as pettinent to the juſtifying of *our* condition, as they can be of *any*: and when 'tis certain that *the forſaking of the Aſſemblies Heb.*10.25. is not our *wilful fault*, *v.* 26. but only our *unhappy lot*; who are forced either not to frequent the Aſſemblies, or elſe to encourage (and incur the *ſcandal* of ſeeming to approve) the practices of thoſe that have departed from the Church. *See the eminent Doctor in his new Book of Schiſm, laſt Chapter.*

Maſter Medes *anſwer to Doctor* Twiſs, *touching Holineſs of Times and Places. p.* 660.

SIR,

I Say ſtill, there is *eadem ratio Loci & Temporis ſacri quà talis :* to wit, for the ſanctification or diſcrimination due to them both and the formal reaſon for which it is due: For the formal reaſon why a thing is to be ſanctified (or *ſanctè habendum*) is, becauſe it is *ſanctum* or *ſacrum :* and whatſoever is appropriate to God and his ſervice is ſuch be it by Gods own immediate ordination, or humane devotion, it is all one in this point to the conſecration be ſuppoſed lawful and agreeable

agreeable to the divine will. For this ſanctification depends neither upon the difference of the inſtitution, whether divine or humane; nor the diverſity of natural and artificial Being, but upon the *formalis ratio* of the object, becauſe it is *ſacrum*. Moreover, I believe the one was intended in the fourth Commandement, as well as the other: not only from that general rule whereby the Decalogue is to be interpreted, but becauſe the Lord himſelf hath conjoined them, *Lev.* 19.30. *Keep my Sabbaths, and reverence my Sanctuary.* Why may not I ſay, *Thoſe whom God hath joined together, let no man put aſunder?* And it may be, the ſanctification of the Lords Day would be urged with more advantage upon the ground I have inſinuated, than upon that other which is ſo much controverted. But it is Partiality that indoes all.

Of Chriſtian Prudence.

CHriſtian prudence forbids us to provoke a danger, and they were fond perſons that run to perſecution, and when the Proconſul ſate on the life and death, and made ſtrict inquiſition after Chriſtians, went and

offer'd themſelves to die: and he was a fool that being in *Portugal* run to the Prieſt as he elevated the hoſt, and overthrew the myſteries, and openly defyed the rites of that Religion. God, when he ſends a perſecution, will pick out ſuch perſons whom he will have to dy, & whom he wil conſign to baniſhment, & whom to poverty. In the mean time, let us do our duty when we can, walking ἀκριβῶς (as the Apoſtles phraſe is) not prevaricating in the leaſt tittle: and then if we can be ſafe with the arts of civil, innocent, in-offenſive compliance, let us bleſs God for his permiſſions made to us, and his aſſiſtances in the uſing them. But if either we turn our zeal into the ambition of death, and the follies of an unneceſſary beggary; or, on the other ſide, turn our prudence into craft and covetouſneſs; to the firſt I ſay, that God hath no pleaſure in fools; to the later, If you gain the whole world, and loſe your own Soul, your loſs is infinite and intolerable. *Doctor* Jer. Taylor. *Serm.* 20. *Sum.*

Of Liturgy, and the uſe of Gifts in Prayer.

THough I am not againſt a Grave, modeſt, diſcreet and humble uſe of Miniſters gifts, even in publick, the better to fit and excite their own, and the Peoples affections to the preſent occaſions; Yet I know no neceſſity, why private and ſingle abilities ſhould quite juſtle out and deprive the Church of the joint abilities and concurrent gifts and graces enabling them to compoſe with ſerious deliberation and concurrent advice, ſuch Forms of Prayers as may beſt fit the Churches common wants, inform the hearers underſtanding, and ſtir up that fiduciary and fervent application of their Spirits (wherein conſiſts the very Life and Soul of Prayer, and that ſo much pretended Spirit of Prayer,) than any ptivate man by his ſolitary abilities can be preſumed to have: which what they are many times (even there, where they make a great noiſe and ſhew) the affectations, emptineſs, impertinency, rudeneſs, confuſions, flatneſs, levity, obſcurity, vain and ridiculous repetitions, the ſenſeleſs and oft-times blaſphemous expreſſions, all theſe burthened with a moſt tedious and intolerable length, do ſufficiently convince all

men, but those who glory in that pharasaick way. *Rules of Life*. 16.

Of Moderate Episcopacy.

THe Abuses of Episcopacy deserve to be extirpated as much as the use retained; for I think it far better to hold to Primitive and uniform Antiquity, than to comply with divided Novelty. A right Episcopacy would at once satisfy all just desires and interests of good Bishops, humble Presbyters, and sober people: so as Church affairs should be managed neither with tyranny, parity, nor popularity: neither Bishops ejected, nor Presbyters despised, nor people oppressed, *ibid.* 17.

Of the Primitive Church and Fathers.

IF the practice of the Primitive Church, and the universal consent of the Fathers, be not a convincing Argument, when the Interpretation of Scripture is doubtful, I know nothing: for if this be not, then of necessity the Interpretation of private Spirits must be admitted, the which contradicts S. *Peter*, 2 *Pet.* 1. 20. is the Mother of all sects, and will

will (if not prevented) bring theſe Kingdoms into confuſion. And to ſay that an Argument is ill, becauſe the Papiſts uſe it, or, that ſuch a thing is good, becauſe it is the cuſtome of ſome of the reformed Churches, cannot weigh with me, untill you prove, theſe to be infallible, or that to maintain no Truth. And how *Diotrephes* ambition (who directly oppoſed the Apoſtle *S. John*) can be an Argument againſt Epiſcopacy, I do not underſtand. *His Majeſties ſecond paper to* H.

Of the ſame.

MY Concluſion is, that albeit I never eſteemed any Authority equall to the Scriptures, yet I do think the unanimous conſent of the Fathers, and the Univerſall practice of the Primitive Church, to be the beſt and moſt Authenticall Interpreters of God's Word, and conſequently the fitteſt Judges between Me and You, when we differ, untill you ſhall find me better. *Fift paper.*

A pious Offer of the Engliſh Clergy, Anno 1644.

I Shall offer in the name of my brethren of the Clergy (not that I have took their particular

ticular votes, but that I perſwade my ſelf ſo far of their piety;) That rather than the Glory ſhould thus depart from *Iſrael*, by laying waſt this flouriſhing Church of ours, every one ſingle of us, that have any poſſeſſions or titles worthy any mans envy or rapine (and ſo are thought now by our own Intereſts to have been bribed or fee'd Advocates in this cauſe;) may forthwith be deprived of all that part of the Revenues of the Church wherein we are legally inveſted; And he that ſhall not cheerfully reſign his part in the preſent proſperity of the Church, on the meer contemplation and intuition of the benefit, that may now, and after his life, redound to others, let him have the charge of being diſturber of the State.——And if the *Function* it ſelf, with the neceſſary adjuncts to it, be not ſwept away in the calamity, we ſhall be perfectly pleas'd whatſoever befall our *Perſons*, and deſire that tryall may be made of the ingenuity of Clergy-men, whether we have not thus far profited under Gods rod, as to be willing to yield to any poſſible propoſition, which will bring no guilt of ſin upon our Conſciences, toward the averting the Judgments of Heaven. *Dr. Hammond's Conſid. of Church-government.*

Of

Of Univerſall Redemption.

THeſe two propoſitions are very reconcilable, that *Chriſt redeemed all men*, and yet that the whole number of the impenitent, unbelieving, reprobate world ſhall never be ſaved by him. The great Benefits of Chriſt's death (which I affirm to be general) are given upon condition, not abſolutely: as God's love to the world, and the effect of it, giving his Son, is not deſigned, that all *abſolutely*, but that all *conditionally*, *i. e.* Whoſoever believeth in him, ſhould not periſh, but have everlaſting life: They which do not perform that condition (as Gods knows a great multitude do not,) ſhall never be ſaved by his death. To which purpoſe is that of *Proſper*, one far enough from all kindneſs to the Pelagians, *Redemptor mundi dedit pro mundo ſanguinem ſuum, & mundus redimi noluit*. The Redeemer of the world gave his bloud for the world, and the world would not be redeemed. *Ad Gall. cap.* 9.——To that teſtimony *Heb.* 2. 9. (ſo clear, that it alone hath, to my knowledge, convinc'd one as learned a man as doth in this Church of ours maintain the doctrine contrary to the Remonſtrants) I ſhall *ex abundanti* add theſe other plain teſtimonies:

monies: Not only that of Gods giving his only Son, mention'd by Christ, as an effect or expression of his love to the world (which it would not be, if he did not give him for the *world*, whom he is said to *love*;) but, (to prevent all distinctions concerning the notion of the *world*, as if it signified only the *elect*,) more particularly these two. First, that of 2 *Pet.* 2. 1. Where the Lord, *i. e.* Christ is plainly said to have bought (*i. e.* paid the Price, satisfied for them) who deny him, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. The other testimony is that of S. *Paul*, 2 *Cor.* 5. 14. Where speaking of the constraining obliging love of Christ, he said; We thus judge, that if one dyed for all, then were all dead: that is surely *All* in the full latitude, not only the elect, but All others; and this conclusion the Apostle infers by this *medium*, because One, that is, Christ dyed for *All*. Which being a proof of the other must certainly be as true, and the *All* as generall and unlimited, &c. *Dr. Hammond*, *Vindic. of the Prac. Catech. p.* 4, 5.

Of set forms of Prayer.

THat it is lawfull to use a set determinate form of words either written or fastned

in

in our memory is apparent both by the example of Christ, (who in S. *Luke* bids us when we pray, ſay, *Our Father, &c.* not only pray after this pattern (as the words in S. *Matthew* may be interpreted) but uſe theſe very words (when you pray, ſay, *Our Father, &c. Luke* 11. 2.) and of *John Baptiſt*, who taught his diſciples to pray in ſome form, though we know not what it is, *Luke* 11. 1. As alſo of the Prieſts, that uſed ſet forms of bleſſing the people, *Numb.* 6. 24. and of our Saviour himſelf, who uſed a part (if not the whole) of the 22. Pſalm upon the Croſs, *My God, my God, why haſt thou forſaken me, &c.* And of the Church of the Jews, and Chriſtian Churches through all times, who have had their Liturgies as ways and forms of ſerving God publickly, and as means to preſerve the true *Religion* from all corruptions in doctrine.—Add the great benefit that accrews to the Congregation in having diſcreet well-formed prayers, and ſo not ſubject to the temerity and impertinences of the ſudden effuſions; and the ſame ſtill in conſtant uſe, and ſo not ſtrange or new to them, but ſuch as they may with underſtanding go along with the Miniſter, and by the help of their Memory the moſt ignorant may carry them away for his private uſe. *Pract. Catech. lib.* 3. *ſect.* 2. Melancthon

Melanchthon Calvino. 1543. *Maii.* 11.

Scio Deum inter fatales Imperiorum tumultus Eccleſiam ſuam ſervare mirabiliter. Non igitur frangamur animis, ſed dum poſſumus ſonemus, ut converſus Latro in cruce, doctrinam de Filio Dei, deq; arcana ſapientia, quæ eſt Eccleſiæ propria, de magnitudine humanæ infirmitatis, de pœnitentia & fiducia promiſſæ miſericordiæ propter filium, de vera invocatione & veris Eccleſiæ virtutibus, de myſteriis non polluendis, de Eccleſiæ politia, non illa quam fingunt Pontifices, ſed qualis fuit Prophetarum & Apoſtolorum, deniq; de vita æterna. Ad harum maximarum rerum doctrinam ornandam transferas velim eloquentiam tuam: quæ & confirmare noſtros, & terrere adverſarios, & ſanabiles juvare poterit. ——Fortaſſis noſtra Germania paulo poſt à Turcis vaſtabitur: quod ſi fiet, eo magis vobis alibi in locis tutioribus ſtudia literarum excitanda erunt, & pugnandum vehementius, ut in reliqua Europa Evangelii lucem accendatis, & retineatis. Quod ad quæſtionem de prædeſtinatione, habebam amicum Tubingæ doctum hominem Franciſcum Stadianum, qui dicere ſolebat, ſe utrumq; probare, evenire omnia, ut divina providentia decrevit,

decrevit, & tamen esse contingentia: sed se hæc conciliare non posse. Ego cum hypothesin hanc teneam, Deum non esse causam peccati, nec velle peccatum, postea contingentiam in hac nostra infirmitate judicii admitto, ut sciant rudes Davidem sua voluntate ultro ruere: & eundem sentio, cum haberet Spiritum Sanctum, potuisse eum retinere, & in ea lucta aliquem esse voluntatis actionem. Hæc etiamsi subtilius disputari possunt, tamen ad regendas mentes hoc modo proposita, accommodata videntur. Accusemus ipsi nostram voluntatem cum labimur, non quæramus in Dei consilio causam, & contra eam nos erigamus: sciamus Deum & velle opitulari, & adesse luctantibus: μὴν θέλειν, *inquit Basilius,* καὶ δεῖ συναιτίας. *Excitetur ergo cura in nobis, & laudetur Dei immensa bonitas, quum & promisit auxilium & præstat.* —— *Hæc non scribo ut tibi tradam quasi dictata, homini & eruditissimo ac peritissimo exercitiorum pietatis. Et quidem scio hæc cum tuis congruere, sed sunt* παχύτερα, *& ad usum accommodata. Hæc Bonnæ scripsi apud D. Bucerum, cum eo accersitus est ut Ecclesias in Dioceſi Colonienſi emendaret. Hæc consilia Deo piis votis commendes.*

Philippus Melanthon.

Of

Of the power of the Congregation.

LEt not any man think now that the Apoſtle communicateth this power with the Congregation of the Church of *Corinth*, when he writeth to them, 1 *Cor.* 5. 4, 5. *being aſſembled with his ſpirit, to deliver the inceſtuous perſon to Satan.* For it is plain, that the ſentence is given by the Apoſtle *verſ.* 3. where he writeth: *For I verily, as abſent in body but preſent in ſpirit, have judged already, as though I were preſent, concerning him that hath ſo done this deed.* And to cauſe this proceeding to be the better digeſted, he hath vouched his power in the end of the chapter afore, *verſe* 18. *Now ſome are puffed up, as though I would not come unto you: but I will come unto you ſhortly, if the Lord will, and will know, not the ſpeech of them that are puffed up, but the power. What will you? ſhall I come unto you with a rod, or with the ſpirit of meekneſs?* Which power otherwhiles he ſetteth before them, in caſe of their diſobedience. And therefore it muſt be acknowledged, that he writeth to them to ſee his ſentence publiſhed, ratified and executed: which the Presbyters there had either neglected to do, or perhaps were not able to bring the people

people under the Diſcipline of Chriſt's Kingdom; which muſt needs oblige the Apoſtle to interpoſe. —— And this without doubt is the reaſon why the Apoſtle writeth in theſe terms 1 *Cor.* 5. 12. *For what have I to do to judge thoſe that are without? do not ye judge thoſe that are within?* ſpeaking to the Church in general, though the ſentence paſſed by Biſhop and Presbyters; becauſe matters were cenſured in the Congregation, and executed by the people. And thus the practice of that time giveth a reaſon without ſtraining, why our Lord ſeemeth to refer theſe matters to the Congregation, when he ſaith, *Tell it to the Church*, becauſe they paſſed at their Aſſemblies, though under Cenſure of Biſhop and Presbyters. And great reaſon there is, why this regard ſhould be had by the Apoſtle, and by the Church afterwards, to the People; becauſe the Church, being a meer ſpiritual Commonwealth, and not indued with temporal ſtrength, ſo much as to execute thoſe ſentences which the power of the Keys given by Chriſt obligeth it to inflict (always ſetting wide that power of working miracles, which was in the Apoſtle, upon which ſome think he reflecteth in ſome paſſages of thoſe Epiſtles;) requiſite it was then, the Congregation ſhould be ſatisfied of the

courſe of thoſe proceedings which muſt come into execution and effect by their voluntary ſubmiſſion to the will of God, and the office of his Miniſters: And, as the matter is now, that things of this nature proceed not upon mens private Conſciences and Judgments in particulars, but upon general rules of Common right, requiſite it is, that the Commonwealth have ſatisfaction of thoſe Laws according to which the Church now muſt proceed in their cenſures, it being acknowledged that they cannot proceed with effect but by vertue of thoſe Laws that are put in force by the ſecular Arm. *Mr. Thorndike of Prim. Government. p.* 144.

Reader, *Take for a Concluſion of all at this time, that too pertinent Relation, which you may read more at large in Mr.* Hookers *preface, collected out of* Guy de bres.

Of the Errour of the Anabaptiſts.

THey ſo much affected to croſs the ordinary cuſtome in every thing, that when other mens uſe was to put on better attire, they would be ſure to ſhew themſelves openly abroad in worſe; the ordinary names of the days in the week they thought it a kind of

prophaneſs

prophaneſs to uſe, and therefore accuſtomed themſelves to make no other diſtinction than by numbers; The firſt, ſecond, third day. They boldly avouched, that themſelves only had the truth, and that ſince the Apoſtles lived the ſame was never before in all points ſincerely taught. Other diſputation againſt their opinions than only by allegation of Scripture they would not hear: beſides it, they thought no other writings in the world ſhould be ſtudyed, in ſo much as one of their great Prophets exhorting them to caſt away all reſpects unto human writings, ſo far to his motion they condeſcended, that as many as had any Books, ſave the Holy Bible, in their cuſtody, they brought and ſet them publickly on fire. When they and their Bibles were alone together, what ſtrange phantaſticall opinion ſoever at any time enterd into their heads, their uſe was to think the Spirit taught it them. Their own Miniſters they highly magnified as men whoſe vocation was from God; the reſt their manner was to term diſdainfully *Scribes* and *Phariſees*, to account their calling an human creature, and to detain the people as much as might be from hearing them.

The cuſtome of uſing God-fathers and God-mothers at Chriſtnings they ſcorned.

Baptizing of Infants, although confeſt by themſelves to have been continued ever ſithence the Apoſtles own times, yet they altogether condemned. The Euchariſt they received (pretending our Lord and Saviours example) after Supper; and for avoiding all thoſe impieties which have been grounded upon the myſticall words of Chriſt, *This is my Body*, *This is my Blood*, they thought it not ſafe to mention either body or blood in that Sacrament, but rather to abrogate both, and to uſe no words but theſe, *Take, eate, declare the death of our Lord*; *Drink, ſhew forth our Lords Death*. In rites and ceremonies, their profeſſion was hatred of all conformity with the Church of *Rome*; for which cauſe they would rather endure any torment, than obſerve the ſolemn *Feſtivals* which others did, in as much as *Antichriſt* (they ſaid) was the firſt inventor of them. The pretended end of their civil reformation was, *that Chriſt might have dominion over all*, that all Crowns and Scepters might be thrown down at his feet, that no other might reign over Chriſtian men but He, no regiment to keep them in awe but his diſciplin; amongſt them no ſword at all to be carried, beſides his, the ſword of ſpirituall excommunication. They laboured to bring in Commu-

nity

nity of goods, becauſe Chriſt by his Apoſtles hath given the world ſuch example, to the end that men might excell one another not in wealth the pillar of ſecular Authority, but in vertue. Theſe men at the firſt were only pityed in their errour, and by a mercifull Toleration they gatherd ſtrength, much more than was ſafe for the ſtate of the Common-monwealth wherein they lived. The means whereby they both allured and reteined ſo great multitudes were moſt effectuall: Firſt, a wonderfull ſhew of zeall towards God, wherewith they ſeemed to be even rapt in every thing they ſpake. Secondly, an hatred of ſin, and a ſingular love of integrity, which men did think to be much more than ordinary in them, by reaſon of the cuſtome which they had to fill the ears of the people with invectives againſt their authorized guides, as well Spirituall as Civill. Thirdly, the bountifull relief wherewith they eaſed the broken eſtate of ſuch needy creatures, as were in that reſpect the more apt to be drawn away. Fourthly, a tender compaſſion which they were thought to take upon the miſeries of the common ſort, over whoſe hearts their manner was even to powr down ſhowers of tears in complaining that no reſpect was had unto them. Laſtly, a cunning ſlight which

they had to ſtroke and ſmooth up the minds of their Followers, as well by appropriating unto them all the favourable titles, the good words, and the gracious promiſes in Scripture, as alſo by caſting the contrary always on the heads of ſuch as were ſevered from that retinue. Whereupon the peoples common Acclamation unto ſuch Deceivers was, Theſe are verily the men of God, theſe are his true and ſincere Prophets.——Nothing more clear unto their ſeeming, than that a *New Jeruſalem* being often ſpoken of in Scriptures, they undoubtedly were themſelves that New Jeruſalem, and the Old did by way of a certain figurative reſemblance ſignify what they ſhould both be and do. Here they drew in a Sea of matter by applying all things unto their own company which are any where ſpoken concerning divine favours and benefits beſtowed upon the old Commonwealth of *Iſrael*, concluding that as *Iſrael* was deliverd out of *Egypt*, ſo they ſpiritually out of the *Egypt* of the worlds ſervile thraldom unto ſin and ſuperſtition; as *Iſrael* was to root out the Idolatrous Nations, and to plant in ſtead of them a people which feared God, ſo the Lords good will and pleaſure was now, that theſe new *Iſraelits* ſhould under the conduct of other *Joſhuas*, *Samſons*,

and

and *Gedeons* perform a work no leſs miraculous in caſting out violently the wicked from the earth, and eſtabliſhing the Kingdom of Chriſt with perfect liberty. Now whatſoever they did in ſuch ſort collect out of Scripture, when they came to juſtify or perſwade it unto others, all was the heavenly Fathers appointment, his Commandement, his will and charge.

Theſe men in whoſe mouths at the firſt ſounded nothing but onely mortification of the fleſh, were come at the length to think, they might lawfully have their ſix or ſeven wives apeece; They which at the firſt taught judgment and juſtice it ſelf to be mercileſs cruelly, accompted at the length their own hands ſanctified with being imbrued in Chriſtian blood; They who at the firſt were wont to beat down all dominion, had at the length both Conſuls and Kings of their own creation amongſt themſelves; Finally, they which could not brook at the firſt, that any man ſhould ſeek, no not by law, the recovery of goods injuriouſly taken or withheld from him, were grown at the laſt to think they could not offer unto God more acceptable ſacrifice, than by turning their Adverſaries clean out of houſe and home, and by enriching themſelves with all kind of ſpoil and pil-

lage; which thing being layd to their charge, they had in a readineſs their anſwer, that now the time was come, when according to our Saviours promiſe, The Meek ones muſt inherit the Earth.

Jan. 6.

THE END.